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THE
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION,
WITH
Graphic Illustrations,
OF
CASSIOBURY PARK,
HERTFORDSHIRE:
THE SEAT OF
THE EARL OF ESSEX.

BY JOHN BRITTON, F.S.A.

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AUTHOR OF THE ARCHITECTURAL AND CATHEDRAL ANTIQUITIES, ETC.



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TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE EARL OF ESSEX.

LETTERED

MY LORD,

THIRTY-EIGHT years have elapsed since I had the gratification of first meeting your Lordship, at Hampton Court, in Herefordshire; and, from that time to the present, I have been zealously occupied in developing the histories, and illustrating the architectural features of many of our splendid Cathedrals, and other national Antiquities of various kinds. Your attention, my Lord, has been usefully directed, during the same period, to the numerous changes which have taken place in the political, literary, and graphic condition of our own and of other kingdoms. Those changes have been more remarkable and rapid within the present century, in advancing Art, Science, and Literature; and in promoting the moral amelioration of mankind, than during any corresponding period of time in the annals of the world. We shall find many evidences of this fact in the well-stored Library, and in the works of Art at Cassiobury; whilst your Lordship's intercourse with the Statesmen, Literati, and Artists, who have frequented that hospitable mansion, must have afforded other proofs. As a review of past times enables us to ascertain what has been done on these subjects in our own country, a contemplation of the present state of political affairs—of the great and glorious reforms which have been effected, and are in progress—and of the moral and mental improvements now operating in this rich and enterprising kingdom—must at once be a source of congratulation and pride to Englishmen. Anticipating a continuation of corresponding advancement for the next half century, the effects must be marvellous. The science of Man will bring nearly all the elements of Nature under his control and dominion; and whilst he is enabled to travel from one end of the island to the other, and also across the ever-restless ocean, by the aid of steam-power and machinery, with a rapidity almost equal to the aerial course of a bird, it may not be impossible that his inventive faculties will render him competent to imitate the feathered race, by flying in the same element. The human mind has already achieved vast conquests over the subtle principles involved in the composition of material bodies—in Chemistry, Geology, Physiology, Astronomy—indeed in the whole Cyclopædia of Science—and who can circumscribe or define the limits of its powers?

That your Lordship may live many years in good health, to witness the realization and substantial effects of the national and moral reforms now in progress in this country, and continue to derive solace and pleasure from the beauties of Nature and Art, as well as from association with men of political integrity, moral worth, and mental attainments, is the sincere wish of

Your Lordship's

Obedient servant,

J. BRITTON.

BURTON STREET LONDON
JULY 9. 1837



PREFACE.

TOPOGRAPHY is to Geography what Biography is to History:—the first is particular, local, and of limited compass:—the second is general, and comprehends a wide extent;—the third shews man in his individual actions and relations; whilst the fourth embraces the annals of nations as influenced by governments and social institutions.

Topography is the associate of Geography, Geology, Natural History, and Archæology. That it is entitled to the unprejudiced attention of men of learning and of taste may be inferred from the fact that a Walpole¹, a Whitaker², a Warton³, a Blore⁴, a Gage⁵, a White⁶, a Scott⁷, a Todd⁸, a Hunter⁹, a Baker¹⁰, and many other

¹ This voluminous and very pleasing "Noble author" wrote accounts of *Houghton Hall*, Norfolk, and *Strawberry Hill*, Middlesex; but did not display much of his usual literary talents on either of those subjects.

² There were two authors of this name; both topographers, antiquaries, and divines; both men of genius and learning; but both intemperate partisans in politics and polemics; as well as being harsh literary critics.

³ The Rev. *Jos. Warton*, poet laureat, the learned historian of English poetry, was author of a very interesting topographical volume on "*The History of Kiddington*," 4to. 3d edit. 1815. Of the first edition, 1782, only twenty copies were printed.

⁴ THOMAS BLORE, father of Edward Blore, now an eminent architect, wrote a "*History of South Winfield*," 4to. 1793, and a volume on a part of the *County of Rutland*, folio, 1811, both of which evince much knowledge of family history, topography, and antiquities.

⁵ This gentleman's "*History of Hengrave*," 4to. 1822, is a valuable specimen of topography, and shews how much of general interest often belongs to a single family seat.

⁶ The well known "*History of Selborne*," by this author, is a peculiar topographical work; being almost wholly devoted to the natural history of the parish, which is rendered exceedingly interesting and amusing. It has passed through several editions.

⁷ "*The Border Antiquities*," and indeed all the publications of this fascinating and popular author, show his vast and commanding powers in antiquarian and topographical, as well as in poetical and didactic literature.

⁸ The Rev. H. J. Todd, the learned editor and improver of Dr. Johnson's Dictionary, has produced a most valuable and delightful topographical volume in "*The History of the College of Bonhommes, at Ashridge*," folio, 1823, with several beautiful engravings. Of this rare and well written work only seventy copies were printed (for private distribution) at an expense of about £5000.

⁹ In the *Histories of Hallamshire*, 1819, of *South Yorkshire*, 1828, &c. the Rev. Jos. Hunter has manifested extraordinary zeal and abilities.

¹⁰ The *History of Northamptonshire*, folio, now in progress, by GEORGE BAKER, may be referred to as replete with information respecting those parts of the county which are published.

In addition to these brief remarks on a few of the English topographers, the author is desirous of referring to a new work, which very much resembles the present in size, subject, and mode of treatment. MR. ROBINSON'S "*New Vitruvius Britannicus*," contains historical and descriptive accounts, with plans, elevations, views, &c. of *Woburn Abbey*, 1827, of *Hardwicke Hall*, 1833, and of *Hatfield House*, 1835: and it is hoped that the author may be encouraged to illustrate others of the English mansions in the same judicious and accurate style of execution.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD has had printed a most splendid volume on the *Woburn Abbey Marbles*, folio, 1822; which it is to be regretted is so limited in distribution, as to be almost a sealed casket. Its beautiful and accurate illustrations, with the classical and erudite style of its literary contents, evidently by a most accomplished scholar and critic, place it amongst the very first class of embellished books.

Fonthill Abbey may be noticed amongst the romances of modern architecture. Its proprietor was a natural necromancer: with the Aaron's rod of wealth he struck the rock and turned it to a splendid palace. As it sprang up with mystery and rapidity, so it sunk to ruin with more than corresponding celerity. On this extraordinary edifice, and its more extraordinary master, the writer of this work published a quarto volume in 1823, in the dedication of which is an account of other publications devoted to particular mansions.

Nearly contemporary in time of erection with that "*Gothic Seat*" was *Eaton Hall*, in Cheshire, belonging to the MARQUESS OF WESTMINSTER, built from the designs of Wm. Porden, architect. On this noble modern house, in a park of vast extent, and placed on the confines of England and Wales, a handsome volume of lithographic views, with a plan and descriptive account, by Messrs. J. and J. C. Buckler, has been published, in a size and style somewhat resembling the present work.

Another topographical volume, devoted to an interesting ancient mansion, demands notice and commendation in this place:—"*The History of Audley-End*," by RICHARD LORD BRAYBROOKE, 4to. 1836. Besides embracing much valuable information respecting that fine specimen of the architecture of King James's reign, it contains an account of Suffron Walden, and several engravings illustrating the general design and details of the house.

PREFACE.

authors have by their labours in this branch of literature secured fame to themselves, and conferred it also on the respective localities which their writings are intended to illustrate. That this science is worthy of diligent and skilful prosecution will be readily admitted by every person of liberal and cultivated mind; for it brings into comparative life and light long-lost, dark, and neglected events, and persons of former ages. It is a mirror reflecting the men and manners, the customs, conditions, and states of society of our ancestors through all the revolutions of time: shewing to "the mind's eye" the aboriginal natives of the soil, as well as the other varied classes and nationalities of people who successively waged war against them, and amongst each other. By recording the remote annals of the Britons, the Romans, the Saxons, the Danes, the Normans, and other clans and dynasties, who alternately wielded the sceptre of the whole, or portions of our island, it supplies important aids to our national history, and both tends to enhance its value and give it permanence. On these grounds, and others which might be adduced, the Author ventures to advocate the utility, with the capabilities of Topography; and although every district cannot involve the whole of its elements, there is scarcely any town or parish in Great Britain but contains within its area many of them, and affords ample matter for the investigation and exercise of the discriminating talents of the local historian. The natural surface of the earth and its scenic features,—the geology, and the varied effects resulting from the cultivation of the soil,—the civil, military, and religious vestiges which some of its occupants have left behind them, are so many branches and ramifications of the topographic tree.

After many years devotion to this class of literature, and after deriving from it, both as a study and as a professional pursuit, numerous gratifications, the Author was tempted to undertake the present volume as a matter of amusement and relaxation, rather than as a task of labour. It originated in the Earl of Essex having presented to the author several engraved copper plates, which had been executed for his Lordship when Cassiobury was frequented by some of the first artists of the age (see page 24). Possessing these, the Author was induced to make frequent visits to the place—to procure drawings and engravings of other subjects—and to resort to, as well as to investigate every available source of information. The result is now laid before the reader with an earnest wish that it may be approved. Limiting the number of copies to one hundred and seventy, the Author cannot expect a remunerating profit for labour and money expended, but he will venture to indulge a hope that the volume may not derogate from the small portion of fame that has been awarded to his former literary labours.

The *Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain*, and the *Cathedral Antiquities of England*, have been to the Author objects of great personal and mental toil—they demanded much close study and "stay-at-home" application, besides repeated journeys to, and residences at the different cities and districts which contain the respective edifices. But, although the whole of these pursuits were highly interesting, and often gratifying, he must acknowledge that the beauties of nature—the ever changing landscape, the flower garden, the grove, the park, the river, the glen, and every page in nature's volume, have still greater attractions to his eye and fancy. He therefore eagerly undertook to write an account of Cassiobury, as it would necessarily induce him to visit a place so near to the metropolis, and which comprised the objects here enumerated. Several summers have passed away since the generous proprietor of the seat alluded to presented most of the plates published in this volume: and the Author's reasons for not giving them to the world sooner are, other literary and more urgent engagements, with a desire to obtain more information, and a natural inclination to prolong the pleasures of preparation and anticipation. He could easily have extended the volume with more detailed accounts of persons and objects, but has rather restrained than given latitude to his pen.

In conclusion, the Author has the pleasure to express his obligations and thanks to the EARL OF ESSEX, for many years of continued patronage, and particularly for the very generous presentation of the copper plates, impressions from which adorn this volume. He also tenders, and here records his thanks to the REV. JOSEPH HUNTER,—to GEORGE APPLEYARD, Esq. to EDWARD WEDLAKE BRAYLEY, Esq.—to RICHARD FORD, Esq.—to HENRY WOODTHORPE, Esq.—and to MR. FELLOWS.

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HISTORY OF CASSIOBURY.



IBORN COLLEGE

CHAPTER I.

ON LOCAL HISTORY.—THE CASSII, CASSIO, AND CASSIO-BURY.—JULIUS CÆSAR AND CASSIBELANUS.—CONNECTION OF CASSIO WITH VERULAMIUM, AND WITH ST. ALBAN'S ABBEY.—HISTORY OF THE MANOR.

THE history of a city, a town, or a rural manor; of a parish, or even of an ancient fortress;—like that of a nation, a monarch, or an humble individual, is susceptible of more or less of general interest according to the intrinsic and relative importance of the subject, and to the manner in which it is addressed to the sympathy of the reader. To every place there is a history, were it but duly recorded. Some districts, however, are associated with events well known and of more attractive and commanding consequence than others; and of these the demesne of Cassiobury may be given as an instance. Thebes, Athens, Jerusalem, and Rome are encircled with halos of renown, whence their respective histories cannot fail to secure the attention and animate the feelings of every reader. It is the same with the Verulamium, the Londinium, and the Camalodunum of Roman Britain, and other places of later formation; which, together with the Castles of Dover, of Windsor, and of Warwick, abound in materials for the historian and the antiquary.

“Antiquarian research,” says the late eloquent and learned Dr. Whitaker, “and even poetry itself, have of late been turned to the elucidation of ancient manners: and the pursuit is a decisive proof of the superior intelligence and curiosity which belong to modern times. Heretofore, when an antiquary had given a tolerable view of the ruins of a religious house, the name of the founder, and the date of the foundation, with the manors and carucates which it possessed, in faithful and dull detail, his office was performed, and his readers were satisfied. Meanwhile it never occurred to the one or to the other that all this was the body only, not the soul, of monastic history: that monkish manners, a system of life not only picturesque and magnificent, but combined in some degree both with piety and usefulness, was a study for philosophers; that all its varieties are yet accessible, and what is better, accessible not by direct and formal narrative, but through the medium of inference and deduction (one of the most delightful exercises of an intelligent antiquary) in the computuses of the religious houses¹.”

The Estate and Mansion of Cassiobury, which we are about to illustrate and describe, will be found worthy of diligent study and rational admiration: for they comprise some of those beauties of nature and art which always administer to the Pleasures of Memory, as well as to the Pleasures of Imagination. The name of the place, its connexion with ancient Verulamium, with the famous monastery at St. Alban's, and subsequently with

¹ *History of Richmondshire*:—Prospectus.

men of distinguished patriotism and merit, jointly and severally give it the impress of importance. It is true that to the common observer, Cassiobury may appear merely the country seat of a distinguished nobleman; but as the poet's imagination "bodies forth the forms of things unseen," which with his pen he "turns to shapes, and gives to airy nothing a local habitation and a name," so the topographer, in searching for the evidences which lie hidden in the maze of former days, often brings to light important circumstances calculated to impart interest to the locality he illustrates.

CASSIOBURY is situated within the hundred and manor of Cassio, and county of Hertford, at a distance of sixteen miles north of London, and one mile from the town of Watford, with which it is ecclesiastically connected. As the chief seat of the manor, and as retaining in its present title a decided indication of an aboriginal descent, the topographer has no reason to doubt of its remote occupancy by a warlike clan of natives, and of its consequent local and general influence:—he cannot hesitate in associating it with a race of Britons, whose numbers, military prowess, and discipline, exercised, and occasionally baffled, the renowned skill of those ancient Romans; who, in their ambitious views of universal conquest, fiercely attacked the unoffending inhabitants of this island. A short review of the tribe to which we allude, and of the early annals of the country, as connected with this district, will be useful: for although the remoteness of the period in which the former had independent authority may deprive them of the common sympathies of some readers, others will take a deep interest in ascertaining every possible fact relating to persons who may be properly regarded as the patriots, heroes, or philosophers of an ancient province or a kingdom. Cassibelanus, the chieftain, or prince of the Cassii, a tribe of people who occupied this part of Britain, and whose name is immediately associated with the seat about to be described, is pointed out in Caesar's Commentaries as a man of importance, of great bravery, and of military skill. The state of society and the population of this district are also noticed in the same work with such distinctive particulars as cannot fail to interest the historical student. Long before the Roman invasion and colonization of this island, it is admitted to have been occupied by different tribes, or governments, which had been frequently engaged in warfare with each other; but most of whom united and cooperated to resist the foreign invader. Caesar tells us, that on his second visit to Britain, (which was in the fifty-fourth year before the nativity of Christ), he landed on the eastern coast of Cantium (the modern Kent); and, having left ten cohorts, with three hundred horse, to guard his fleet, he set out about midnight in quest of the enemy, whom he descried, after twelve hours march. They were advantageously posted behind a river, (probably the Stour) with their cavalry and chariots, but were soon repulsed by the Roman horse, and driven "into a place strongly fenced both by nature and art, and which, in all probability, had been fortified before on occasion of some domestic war; for all the avenues were secured by strong barricadoes of felled trees*." He proceeds to say that "the chief command and administration of the war was, by common consent, conferred on Cassibelanus, whose territories were divided from the maritime states by the Thames, and were eighty miles distant from the sea². This prince had hitherto been engaged in almost continual wars with his neighbours; but the terror of our arrival making the Britons unite among themselves, they intrusted him with the whole conduct of the war⁴." Battles and skirmishes ensued, and the Roman historian admits that the "barbarians," as he calls the Britons, were formidable, and accustomed to warfare. Whilst the invaders were fortifying their camp, near the Thames, the Britons sallied from the woods, attacked their enemies, and killed several, amongst whom Caesar names Q. Laberius Durus, a military tribune. Many of the Roman cohorts were called into action on that occasion. On the succeeding day, three of the Roman legions, with all the cavalry, were sent out to forage, when the Britons fell suddenly upon them, and even attacked the standards; but the disciplined troops received them with firmness, and ultimately repulsed them with great slaughter. This defeat induced many of the confederated tribes to return to their homes, leaving Cassibelanus to defend his own province. In this juncture the chieftain retreated across the Thames into his own dominions, and, fortifying with sharp stakes the banks and the bed of the river, at a fording place, he stationed the remainder of his army behind some palisades on the left, or northern bank. But the contest which had dispirited the Britons, served to inflame the ardour of the invaders, who quickly forced a passage across the river, and, by superior military skill, compelled the Britons to quit their station, and precipitately retreat to another, and probably a stronger post³.

* Caesar's "Commentaries of his Wars in Gaul," translated by Duncan, Book v. sec. viii.

² These words evidently imply that the river, where it bounded the territories of Cassibelanus, was eighty miles distant from that part of the coast where Caesar had landed. The original passage is as follows:—"Summa imperii belli; adminstrandum, communis concilio permissa est Cassivellauno: cujus fines à maritimis civitatibus flumen dividit, quod appellatur Thamesis, à mari crevit millia passuum LXXX." *De Bello Gallico*, by Boetius, 1635, p. 53, from Frankfort edit. 1575. It is probable that the march was directed westward, through the district of country now called Kent, and Surrey, and that the Romans reached the Thames near to, or west of Kingston. Carte, in his valuable "*General History of England*," after shewing that Caesar could not have devoted more than twenty days to his expedition against Cassibelanus, describes the route to have been—"by Lenham, Maidstone, Keston-heath, and Woodcote, to Outlands and Cowey-stakes." Vol. i. p. 91, 96. Antiquaries are of various opinions respecting the point where Caesar crossed the Thames, as well as the ports whence he embarked from Gaul and landed in Britain. On these subjects the reader is referred to *Baxter's Glossarium Britannicum v. Cassi*, and *Suellaniaci*;—*Camden's Britannia, Surrey*, edit. 1789, vol. i. p. 167, in which volume at p. 174 are Gough's comments on Camden and on other writers who have published opinions on the subject. See also *Horsley's Britannia Romana*, p. 14, *Gentleman's Magazine for March, 1797*; *Kennett's Parochial Antiquities*, p. 3; and *Archæologia*, vol. i. p. 183.

³ Caesar's Commentaries, Book v. sec. ix.

⁴ According to Caesar, "the cavalry plunged into the river; the infantry followed, though the water reached to their shoulders, and the Britons, intimidated by the intrepid aspect of the invaders, fled to the woods." Polyænus attributes Caesar's success to the panic caused by the sight of an elephant, at the appearance of which enormous animal, covered with scales of polished steel, and carrying on his back a turret filled with

Cassibelanus, retaining only four thousand chariots (such is the admission of Cæsar), adopted a cautious march, in retreating before the forces of the Romans, by sheltering himself in woods and places of difficult access, whither he likewise withdrew his subjects, laying waste the country, to annoy and harass the invaders. But the gradually increasing progress of Cæsar induced the Trinobantes, the inhabitants of the district now comprising Middlesex and Essex, to appeal to him for protection. This tribe had previously been at war with the Cassii, and their allegiance was therefore readily accepted by Cæsar, who hoped to turn their ancient feud to his own purpose. He accepted hostages for their submission, and thus secured greater advantages than he could have obtained by force of arms; for, impatient of the superior power of Cassibelanus, and finding, from the example of the Trinobantes, the immunities to be derived from submission, the Cenimagni, the Segontiaci, the Ancalites, the Bibroci—other British tribes,—and even part of the Cassii, in whose territory Cæsar was placed, sent ambassadors to his camp, to solicit protection and peace. This was of course immediately granted, and from his new allies he received intelligence that Cassibelanus, with numbers of the Britons who remained faithful to his cause, had retired with their cattle into the chief fortress, or capital of that chieftain, which was not far distant. This, supposed to be the Roman Verulamium, is described by Cæsar, to be a thick wood, fortified with a ditch and rampart, extremely strong both by art and nature, and situated amongst woods and marshes. It was attacked by the Romans, and the *barbarians* “were obliged at last to give way, and retire by another part of the wood. Vast numbers of cattle were found in the place; and many of the Britons were either made prisoners or lost their lives in the pursuit.” Thus, although Cassibelanus himself escaped, all obstacles to the further progress of Cæsar were removed; and the failure of an attack upon the Roman fleet, on the coast (made by the order of Cassibelanus) produced a termination of the campaign: for that chieftain, “discouraged by so many losses, the devastation of his territories, and, above all, the revolt of the provinces,” sent ambassadors to Cæsar to sue for peace. The conqueror demanded hostages, appointed the yearly tribute which Britain was to pay to the Romans, commanded Cassibelanus to offer no injury to the Trinobantes, and then returned to Gaul.

Such is a brief account of the celebrated invasion by Cæsar; and such are the only authentic particulars extant relating to Cassibelanus, in connexion with the territory of which we are treating. With respect to the invasion itself, we cannot but be struck with the insignificance of its results, and with surprise that advantages so trifling, and obtained with so much difficulty, should have been dignified by the countrymen of Cæsar with the name of a conquest. He had not been long enough in the country to have accomplished much (the whole campaign occupying only a few weeks); he had gained only the possession of some prisoners; he left no garrison in the island; he had stipulated a tribute, which does not appear to have been paid with regularity; and, by his own admission, he had lost a great number of men. Indeed the Romans cannot be said to have subdued Britain until nearly a century after the time of Julius Cæsar.

The character of Cassibelanus has been variously represented, according to the prepossessions or prejudices of different authors. By some he is characterized as an arbitrary tyrant, remarkable for his rancorous habits and vindictive temper, taking advantage of his appointment to the command of the Britons to consummate his private revenge by the murder of Immanuentius, a prince of the Trinobantes; and by thus incensing that tribe, and ultimately deserting his allies when severely pressed by Cæsar, he is said to have been the principal cause of that warrior's success. But the accounts by Cæsar himself, who had no inducement to flattery, and by other and more impartial historians, are calculated to depict a very different character. These authorities no otherwise impeach Cassibelanus than in his murder of Immanuentius; and this is very slightly and incidentally mentioned. It is stated that he was killed before Cæsar's arrival in Britain; and, as some assert, in one of the conflicts between the Cassii and the Trinobantes. With this exception every recorded action of Cassibelanus points him out as the heroic and patriotic defender of his country against the attacks of an ambitious and rapacious enemy; as a soldier well versed in the tactics of a wild, irregular warfare; committing the greatest devastation amongst the troops of the invaders, and judiciously protecting his own army in retreat; pursuing the same conduct against all the disadvantages of superior numbers and discipline; and surrendering only after every possible means of defence had failed. He retained the command of the Cassii after the retreat of Cæsar, but we have no further particulars respecting the remainder of his dominion or existence.

In order to connect this apparent digression with the locality to the illustration of which the present volume is devoted, it will be proper to offer a remark or two upon that class of the Britons called by ancient writers the *CASSII*. They are distinctly mentioned under the above name both by Julius Cæsar, as already mentioned, and by *Richard of Cirencester*⁶. Unitng with another tribe of natives, called the Dobuni, they obtained the name of

armed men, the Britons fled. viii. 737. *Lug. Bat.* 1691. At the present time there are many parts of the Thames, even as low down as Westminster, which might be forded at low water.

⁶ *Cæsar's Commentaries*, b. v. sec. xvii.

⁷ According to *Richard of Cirencester*, the dominions of the Cassii were bounded to the south by the Thames; to the west by their allies the Dobuni, whose territories extended to the river Severn; to the north by the Carnabii, another British tribe; and to the east by the river Brent. The latter, however, is probably too small and insignificant a stream to have constituted a provincial boundary. The same writer states that their chief cities were those since termed *Forum Durne* (Dunstable), and *Verulamium* (old St. Alban's); and that “the Cassii” were conspicuous above the other nations of the island. In quoting from, or referring to *Richard of Cirencester*, the author is aware of the suspicion attached to his authority, and of the doubtful authenticity of the manuscript from which his treatise “*de Situ Britannie*” was printed. An interesting translation of, and commentary on it were published in 1809, by Mr. H. Hatcher, of Salisbury, who vindicates its genuineness.

Catiuchlani, and inhabited the district now known as the hundred of Cassio, with parts of the adjoining country. Writers differ in opinion respecting the origin and descent of the Cassii, as indeed they do, and ever will, on all matters and persons of so remote an age. It is, however, of little consequence whether they were descendants from the aboriginal Celtic inhabitants of the island, as asserted by Clutterbuck; or (as related by Carte and Baxter) a tribe of the Belgæ, who invaded the southern part of Britain, and occupied it for a long time before Cæsar visited the eastern coast. Their chief town, or station, is generally admitted to have been the place afterwards so famous under the name of Verulamium, of which town extensive remains are still to be traced adjoining the present St. Alban's, which is distant eight miles north from Cassiobury.

Of Cassio-bury itself we may observe, that although its name has not been found in any document older than the sixteenth century, yet the affix *bury* is alone sufficient to denote its antiquity. The meaning of this word is not accurately defined: it was frequently employed by the Saxons in the names of places in England, and is still very extensively retained. The most plausible conjecture is, that it originally signified an assemblage of dwellings surrounded by a wall or other fortification; or in some instances a hill with intrenchments. The modern words *burgh* and *borough*, are derived from the same source. Being, as its name implies, the only *bury* within the manor of Cassio, during the Saxon era, it might have been either the seat of justice for the hundred^s (for the name *bury* will admit of this construction), or an occasional retreat of some of the British princes residing at Verulamium, of whom Cassibelanus was one. The latter view of the subject is more probable than to state, in the absence of evidence (as Chauncy and Clutterbuck do not scruple to do), that Cassiobury was the actual seat or home of Cassibelanus.

After his time we meet with a few occasional notices of the Cassii and their territories. Under the famous Cunobelin (the Cymbeline of Shakspeare), and the still more illustrious Caractacus, both of whom were successively rulers of the Cassii, that tribe is related to have increased in power and influence, and to have entirely subdued their ancient foes, the Trinobantes. But the struggles of the Britons against the forces of the Roman Emperor, Claudius, were totally unavailing, and Verulamium, the capital of the Cassii, became a military station of those conquerors. With the usual policy of their nation, the Romans secured to the place the rank of a *municipium*, or free town, granting to its inhabitants their former rights, with the privilege of nominating local magistrates. This measure plainly indicates the previous consequence of the town, as only a few places in Britain had this distinction conferred upon them by the Romans. During the remainder of the Roman dominion in Britain, Verulamium, though possessing peculiar advantages from the protection of its rulers, was subjected to the hostility of certain British tribes who continued opposed to the foreign invaders. Boadicea, the warlike queen of the Iceni, after subduing the inhabitants of Camalodunum and Londinium, attacked those of Verulamium, whom she conquered, and also plundered the town. But on the return of Suetonius, with the Roman forces, after a short absence, the Iceni were again expelled, and the town restored to its former condition. In these struggles the district now called Cassiobury doubtlessly participated, and it is reasonable to conclude that it continued dependent on, and connected with the *Municipium* until the Romans abandoned the island, about the year 420.

After that event the part of the country whose history we are detailing, must have been variously influenced by the great national conflicts with the Picts and Scots, and afterwards with the Saxons. As early as the middle of the fifth century Verulamium is recorded to have been subjected to, and occupied by the Saxons, but was recovered from them in a battle fought there by the Britons under their chieftain Uter Pendragon, who appears to have possessed it only for a short time. The influence and dominion of the Saxons steadily increased, and when most of the kingdoms forming the Heptarchy had been established, that of Mercia was founded in the year 586, by Creda, its first monarch; and the western, or greater part of the modern county of Hertford (including the modern Cassiobury) was then, or soon afterwards, seized upon by the conquerors as a part of that extensive kingdom.

During the reign of Peada, the great grandson of Creda, the Christian religion was revived in Mercia. It had been promulgated in Britain at a very early period, and at the beginning of the third century was generally established in the island. The Emperor Diocletian commenced a persecution of the British Christians, on which occasion it was that Albanus, or St. Alban, the first British martyr, suffered death by decapitation on account of his religion. This event occurred at Verulamium, about the year 300. Fortunately, however,

Dr. Stukeley first gave it the British nation in 1757, in the form of a quarto pamphlet, under the title of "An Account of Richard of Cirencester, Monk of Westminster, and of his Works; with his ancient Map of Roman Britain, and the Itinerary thereof. Read at the Antiquarian Society, May 18, 1756." This treatise was sent from Copenhagen in a series of letters by C. J. Bertram to Dr. Stukeley, after a long correspondence between them. The former affected much mystery about it, and never gave a satisfactory account of the manner he obtained the manuscript, excepting that it was "in a friend's hands," alluding to Mr. Gramm, privy councillor and librarian to the King of Denmark. The learned, but too credulous Doctor calls the treatise "an invaluable curiosity," adding that the whole "is wrote with great judgment, perspicuity, and conciseness, as by one that was master of his subject." Mr. Rickman, of the House of Commons, and the Rev. Joseph Hunter, the learned and discriminating historian of South Yorkshire, with other able topographical antiquaries, have expressed themselves suspicious of the genuineness of the treatise. The author of the present volume has lately obtained possession of a large mass of manuscripts belonging to the late Dr. Stukeley, amongst which are Bertram's letters, which show precisely the amount of information given to Dr. Stukeley, and also that, if there was any imposition, the Doctor was not a party to it. He could never bring Bertram to the point either of producing the manuscript, or of saying where it might be seen. The question is worthy of diligent inquiry and development, and it would afford the author much pleasure to render every assistance in his power towards effecting its solution.

That Cassiobury was the seat of justice for the hundred is rendered more probable by the fact that the *hundred courts* are now held at Watford, to which place they would naturally have been transferred when it assumed the rank of a town.

Diocletian resigned his command and authority, and, under Constantine the Great, Christianity was again protected. English bishops were present at the Council of Arles, in the year 314, and both monks and monasteries prevailed in Britain at the beginning of the fifth century. On the arrival of St. Augustine, in the year 596, the conversion of the Saxons commenced, although it was not until after 640 that Peada, king of Mercia, as already stated, adopted the Christian faith, and aided in its diffusion throughout his kingdom. Henceforward Christianity prevailed in Mercia, probably more than in any other part of the island; for ecclesiastical synods were held at Hertford, and at Hatfield, and the seat of a bishop of Mercia was fixed at Lichfield. Offa, who governed this province in the eighth century, was the most powerful prince of the Heptarchy. He procured, for a short time, the title of an archbishopric for the see of Lichfield, and continually endeavoured, by an excess of superstitious devotion, to atone for the crimes into which he was led by his ambition. Acting upon this principle, after he had treacherously murdered Ethelred, king of East Anglia, he pretended that the grave of Albanus had been discovered to him in a vision, and that he was impelled to found a monastery on the site of his martyrdom. Accordingly, in the year 793, he visited Rome, procured the canonization of St. Alban, and his own absolution, returned to England, and established the celebrated monastery of St. Alban's, adjoining the ancient town of Verulamium; or, as it was called by the Saxons, Werlamcester.

Amongst the numerous possessions with which Offa endowed this Abbey were the manor and tithes of Cassio⁹. This is another proof of the continual dependence of this manor upon the town of Verulamium, and from the authority which Offa appears thus to have assumed over it, we may reasonably suppose that on the establishment of the Mercian dynasty, and throughout its continuance, Cassio and its judicial rights and privileges, as well as those of Verulamium, were possessed by the Mercian monarchs as royalties.

Under the government of Offa, the kingdoms of Kent, of the East Saxons, and of East Anglia became subject to Mercia; but about the year 827, the whole of England became united under the dominion of Egbert, king of Wessex. The manor of Cassio, as will be seen hereafter, remained a part of the possessions of St. Alban's Abbey until the dissolution of the religious houses by Henry VIII.

Having occasionally mentioned the *county* of Hertford, the *hundred* of Cassio, and other territorial denominations, it may be proper to offer a few remarks on the ancient political divisions of land. The countries occupied by the Saxons before they passed into Britain are described by Roman historians as being divided into shires and townships, or hundreds, and it is therefore presumed that immediately that people had permanently settled themselves in this island they apportioned it in a similar manner: such arrangements are mentioned by Bede, and by William of Malmesbury, as existing some time before the Saxon heptarchy was consolidated into one kingdom. But whether this was the case or not, it is quite certain that the whole realm was surveyed by Alfred the Great, and its civil divisions remodelled and improved. That celebrated monarch divided England into a number of *shires*, or *counties*, nearly corresponding in name, situation, and extent with those at present subsisting; these counties were again subdivided into *centuries*, or *hundreds*, each of which contained about a hundred families; and every hundred was again divided into *deccenaries*, or *tithings*, of about ten families each. When an entire hundred was granted to a particular person, or body, as a franchise, it was usually called a *liberty*. The *manors*, *baronies*, or *lordships* of each hundred were particular tracts of land granted by the king to his thanes, or nobles, for certain payments, or warlike services, to be rendered in time of need, and were independent of the abovementioned political divisions.

The members of each respective *tithing*, or free borough, formed a court at which disputes were adjusted, and which was placed under the control of the chief member of the tithing, who was called the *tithing-man*, or *head-borough*. Of higher importance were the *hundred-courts*; formed by an aggregation of all the tithings in each hundred, and presided over by the *hundredor*, who was a thane possessing property in the hundred, and receiving a portion of all the fines he inflicted: and the principal local courts of the kingdom were the *shiregemots*, or *county-courts*. Of the latter the chief officer was the principal *earl*, or thane, of the shire, who was assisted at the sittings of the court by a deputy called the *shiregerive*, and by the bishop and other eminent personages of the county. His court was an important tribunal, being open for the determining of military and ecclesiastical, as well as civil questions. The lords of *manors*, or baronies, had also the privilege of holding *courts-baron* for their limited localities.

The institution of *parishes* was an ecclesiastical measure, independent of, and of subsequent date to all the former. Originally the word parish was synonymous with the diocese of a bishop; but when the lords of manors built churches on their own lands, they compelled the tenants to appropriate their tithes to the minister of such church alone, and not to the clergy of the diocese in general; and the tract of land, of which the tithes were thus appropriated, was termed a parish. The extent of parishes seems to have been originally determined by that of manors; for although there are often many manors in a parish, yet a manor seldom extends beyond a parish.

To illustrate the foregoing remarks, we may observe that the *hundred of Cassio*, forming with seven other hundreds the county, or *shire* of Hertford, was probably founded either by, or before the time of Alfred the Great¹⁰. The *manor* of Cassio was probably so first constituted when it was granted by Offa to the abbey of

⁹ Newcome, "History of the Abbey of St. Alban," p. 515. The original charter of Offa, given in the *Monasticon*, vol. ii. p. 223, has only the words "*ubi dicitur Aetoregesho, mansiones xxxiii.*"

¹⁰ At the time of the Norman conquest it was called the *hundred of Albanestone*, which had probably been its denomination from the time St. Alban's became its chief town.

St. Alban's; but of the time when the *parish* of Watford was established, and embraced and absorbed the hamlet of Cassiobury, it is difficult to speak. Parishes in general are known to have been extant in the tenth century, and that of Watford was in all probability formed at the time of the erection of the first church there, the date of which was anterior to the time of Henry II. Agreeably to the practice already noticed, the parish of Watford contains several manors besides that of Cassio, none of which extend into any of the adjoining parishes.

From the time of founding the abbey of St. Alban's until after the Norman conquest, we have no notice of this place; but it is not improbable that both before and after that event either the successive abbots or some of their officers occasionally resided at Cassiobury. On its condition and appearance so many centuries ago, it would be a waste of time and space to offer any speculations. If at any time a dwelling had been erected for the use of the monastic officers, all evidences of it are lost. Indeed, vague as it is, the most authentic information we possess respecting the manor at this period is contained in the following extract from the celebrated *Domesday Survey*, which thus notices it, in translated language, "The abbot of St. Alban's holds Caissou. It answers for twenty hides; of these the abbot holds nineteen. There is land for twenty-two ploughs. Six hides are in demesne, and there are five ploughs, and a sixth may yet be made. Three foreigners and thirty-six villanes, with eight bordars, have there fifteen ploughs, and one may yet be made. There are, moreover, three bordars, and two bondmen, and four mills of twenty-six shillings and eight pence. Meadow for twenty-two ploughs. Pasture for the cattle. Pannage for one thousand hogs. Its whole value is twenty-eight pounds: when received twenty-four pounds; and in King Edward's time thirty pounds. St. Alban held and holds this manor in demesne¹¹."

Our next notice states that Geoffrey de Gorham, abbot of St. Alban's from 1119 to 1146, in his regulations for managing the abbey revenues, which are detailed by Matthew Paris (p. 1008), specifies the festival dues from *Kaiso* (Cassio) as follows, viz. at Christmas, two shillings and twenty-four hens; at Easter, two shillings and six hundred eggs; and on St. Alban's day, two shillings and twenty-four cheeses. On rebuilding a cell for nuns at Caddington in Bedfordshire, this abbot endowed it with the tithes of Cassio, and two parts of the tithes of the whole parish of Watford, "without the consent of the convent, and, as it were, by force¹²." Geoffrey was also the first abbot to whom a grant of the *liberty* of Cassio was formally made, by King Henry I.; "that is, the great civil power of holding pleas, and taking cognizance of all less crimes and offences, which had been punishable only in the leets, the hundred, and the county-courts, with a power of appointing a *seneschallus*, or steward of the hundred; and of receiving, for the use of the abbey, all fines and amercements. But though there was an hundred court here before, yet the powers now granted were, the privilege of resembling the county-courts, and holding the same pleas with them¹³."

By the return to an inquisition, 6th Edw. I.¹⁴ it is stated that the manors of "Cashio, Rykemereworth, and Saundridge, were ancient demesne, and were held of the king, time out of mind before the conquest of England." This manor and six others were then held by the abbot, in capite, by the service of four knights' fees and a half. These facts tend to exemplify the right which Offa assumed on founding the monastery¹⁵.

By various Acts of Parliament passed between 1530 and 1540, and other legislative and royal measures, the gradual but total separation of the church of England from that of Rome was effected. Commissioners were appointed by King Henry VIII. to visit all the religious houses of the kingdom, to take accounts of their possessions, and ultimately to enforce their suppression, and transfer their revenues to the crown. The abbot of St. Alban's appears to have refused to surrender his abbey in 1537¹⁶; but, dying in the succeeding year, Richard Boreman, otherwise Stevenage, was appointed in his stead; who, on the 5th of December 1539, delivered up the whole revenues of the monastery to the royal Commissioners.

In the *VALOR ECCLESIASTICUS*¹⁷ (1535) the vicarage of Watford is thus noticed:—

" Watford Vicaria	℥.	s.	d.
p ann' clare	xxij	xij	—
X ^{mo} inde	—	xliij	ij ob."

¹¹ *Liber Domesday*, n. 10, fo. 136. A copy of the original Latin is given by Chauncy and by Clutterbuck. The word *francigena* is correctly translated *foreigner*, as it was not exclusively applied to Frenchmen, but to all persons who were not natives of England. Villanes, bordars, and bondmen were the subordinate tenants of the land. The latter are sometimes called *pure villanes*, or *villanes in gross*, and were the absolute slaves of their lord, alienable and transferable at his pleasure. The first named, or *villanes regardant*, were on the other hand appertinences of the manor, which they accompanied in all its descents. For certain menial services, and the payment of a small rent, they were allowed the possession of a house and land: whence their name was derived (*villa*, a farm.) The *bordars*, or borderers, were so called from holding a small house, or *bord*, on the manor, or on its borders; or else because their tenure depended on their supplying their lord's *board*, or table, with certain provisions. *Pannage* for hogs signifies the mast of the forest, i. e. the fruit of the oak and beech. The circumstance of so small a portion of the manor as one hide out of twenty being granted by the abbey to a tenant, implies that Cassiobury was retained by the abbots as a residence.

¹² Newcome's *History of the Abbey of St. Alban*, p. 60. See Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum*, new edit. vol. ii. p. 135.

¹³ Newcome, *ut supra*, p. 61.

¹⁴ Rot. 33 Cur. recept. in seacc. (cited by Chauncy and Clutterbuck.)

¹⁵ The judicial rights of the abbey were exercised by a civil officer called the *hundredor*, whose privileges were confirmed and extended by the charters of several successive monarchs; and on the dissolution of the abbey the office became vested in the crown. It remained dormant until the ninth year of James the First, when "all our hundred of Caishew, with its rights, members, liberties, and the office of hundredor," &c. was granted by the king to George and Thomas Whitmore, of London, Esqrs. The same was afterwards conveyed by purchase to the Earls of Salisbury, and now belongs to the present Marquis of Salisbury. Newcome, p. 543.

¹⁶ See Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum*, new edit. vol. ii. p. 249.

¹⁷ Vol. i. p. 451.

In the Roll of the 35th Henry VIII. (1544), when a more particular survey of the abbatial property was made, the localities we are illustrating are specified and valued as follows:

CAISSHO MANOR, and WATFORD. John, Lord Russell, Great Admiral of all England, Bailiff¹⁸.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
By free Tenants	14	9	2	By customary tenants	41	11	6½
Tenants at will	0	15	4	Lands part of Rectory of Watford	0	7	9
Rent in oats, one quarter	0	1	6	Harwood's, a messuage in Watford, let to Roger Weedon	8	13	4
Manor of Caisho, let to William Dauncey, Esq.	14	2	0	Water mill, with toll	13	0	0
The Ley in Watford	3	0	0	Portions of tithe in Watford	11	2	0
Rectory of Watford	18	13	4				
Perquisites of courts	1	13	6				

On the 29th of August, 1546, only five months before the death of King Henry the Eighth, that monarch granted the manor of Cassio to Sir Richard Morrison, Knight, by letters patent, of which the following is an abstract.—His Majesty, in consideration of certain property in Yorkshire and Worcestershire, and of the sum of 176*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* in money, granted to Sir Richard Moryson "the lordship or manor of Cayshobury," formerly belonging to the monastery of St. Alban's, with Wheppinden-Grove, and Cayshobury-Grove, "in the parish of Watford and Cayshobury;" and all woods, underwoods, and trees, with the land and soil of the same: also all messuages, mills, houses, courts leet, courts baron, view of frankpledge, villains, with their offspring, knights' fees, waifs, estrays, &c. thereto belonging, in as complete a manner as the abbots and priors of the said monastery had held the same: which manors, &c. then amounted to the clear annual sum of 56*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* To hold the same of the crown by the service of the tenth part of a knight, and paying for the same yearly 5*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

Although Cassiobury was evidently of some importance prior to the date of the above grant, yet in an historical or political point of view it had not attained any distinguished eminence. Before the Norman conquest it was subordinate to Verulamium, and when Henry I. gave to the adjoining town of Watford a weekly market, the latter began to assume that preeminence over the hamlet of Cassiobury, which it still retains¹⁹.

The grant of the lordship to Sir Richard Morrison brings us to an epoch whence we may confine our views and notices to the demesne of Cassiobury, and which identifies it as the seat of a private individual. Soon after Sir Richard had obtained possession, he commenced the erection of "a fair and large house, situated upon a dry hill, not far from a pleasant river in a fair park; and had prepared materials for the finishing thereof, but before the same could be half built, he was forced to fly beyond the seas²⁰." His works were in progress in 1553, and the house appears to have been completed by his son, Sir Charles Morrison, who died in 1599. Of this building it will not be very difficult to imagine the general architectural appearance. It may be presumed that the knight's long residence abroad would induce him to adopt a foreign character in his habitation at home. In the "Baronetage," of 1720, the house built by the Morrisons is briefly described as having been "a stately structure, in the midst of a park, with beautiful gardens and wood-walks." The majority of mansions built during the latter half of the sixteenth century were of brick, surrounding a square court, with an ornamental gateway. Their marked exterior features were bay-windows, acute gables, and elaborate chimney shafts, whilst small cupolas, or turrets, balustraded terraces, and other forms and details, marked a gradation between the ecclesiastical architecture and that cinque-cento, or Anglo-Italian style of building, which has been lately called the Elizabethan²¹.

On the marriage of Elizabeth Morrison (the only surviving child of Sir Richard's grandson), the family property passed to her husband, *Arthur, Lord Capel*; from whom the present possessor of Cassiobury is lineally descended. This seat, however, appears to have been neglected by Lord Capel, in favour of his family residence, at Hadham, in the same county; to which place he was doubtlessly attached by a variety of associations. His son and successor, the first *Earl of Essex*, for a time resided at the same seat; but after his return from Ireland, in 1677, he resolved to reside at Cassiobury, which, it may be presumed, required material reparations. It is related that he not merely repaired the house, but rebuilt the whole excepting the north-west wing. In laying out the gardens, in the formal style of those at Versailles, &c. he employed Moses Cook, who published a volume on "Forest Trees" in 1675²².

¹⁸ Newcome's *History of St. Alban*, p. 487.

¹⁹ The *Vicarage of Watford* was part of the possessions of the abbey of St. Alban's, and prior to the grant of the manor to Sir Richard Morrison, the impropriate rectory and advowson of the vicarage had been bestowed by Henry VIII. on John, Lord Russell. From that nobleman they descended to Francis, the second Earl of Bedford, who, by a deed, dated June 5, in the fifth year of Queen Elizabeth, sold them to Sir Charles Morrison, of Cassiobury: since which time they have always accompanied the manor of Cassio.

²⁰ Chaucy's "*Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire*," edit. 1826, vol. ii. p. 353.

²¹ The character of "a palace," or country mansion, as described by Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam, may be considered as applicable to the most eminent houses of the time when he wrote (about 1597). In recommending, and that most wisely, attention to site, soil, water, air, prospects, roads, markets, woods, lawns, navigable rivers, neighbourhood, and other matters conducive or repugnant to domestic comforts and luxuries, he says, "houses are built to live in, and not to look on: therefore let use be preferred before uniformity; except where both may be had."—*Bacon's "Essays and Counsels,"* Essay XLV. On Building.

²² Some writers have stated that Le Notre was employed at Cassiobury, and Clutterbuck says that Rose laid out the grounds and gardens: the latter was head gardener to the Earl at Essex-house in the Strand.

The following interesting description of the house and grounds, extracted from the first volume of *Evelyn's Memoirs* (p. 517), under the date of the 18th of April, 1680, is told with all the characteristic quaintness of that author's manner:—"On the earnest invitation of the Earle of Essex I went with him to his house at Cassioberie, in Hartford-shire. It was on Sunday, but going early from his house in the square of St. James, we arriv'd by ten o'clock; this he thought too late to go to church, and we had prayers in his chapel. The house is new, a plaine fabric, built by my friend Mr. Hugh May³⁵. There are divers faire and good roomes, and excellent carving by Gibbons, especially the chimney-piece of y^e library. There is in the porch or entrance a painting by Verrio, of Apollo and the Liberal Arts. One room parquett'd with yew, which I lik'd well. Some of the chimney mantles are of Irish marble, brought by my Lord from Ireland when he was Lord Lieutenant, and not much inferior to Italian. The tympanum or gabal at the front is a bass-relievo of Diana hunting, cut in Portland stone, handsomely enough. I did not approve of the middle dores being round, but when the Hall is finish'd as design'd, it being an oval with a cupola, together with the other wing, it will be a very noble palace. The Library is large, and very nobly furnish'd, and all the books are richly bound and gilded; but there are no MSS. except the Parliament Rolls and Journals, the transcribing and binding of w^{ch} cost him, as he assured me, 500*l*. No man has ben more industrious than this noble Lord in planting about his seate, adorn'd with walkes, ponds, and other rural elegancies; but the soile is stonie, churlish, and uneven, nor is the water neere enough to the house, tho' a very swift and cleare streame run within a flight shot from it in the vally, which may be fitly call'd Coldbrook, it being indeede excessive cold, yet producing fair troutes. 'Tis pittie the house was not situated to more advantage, but it seemes it was built just where the old one was, which I believe he onely meant to repaire; this leads men into irremediable errors, and saves but a little. The land about it is exceedingly addicted to wood, but the coldnesse of the place hinders the growth. Black cherry-trees prosper even to considerable timber, some being eighty foote long³⁶; they make also very handsome avenues. There is a pretty oval at the end of a faire walke, set about with treble rows of Spanish chesnut trees. The gardens are very rare, and cannot be otherwise, having so skilful an artist to govern them as Mr. Cooke, who is, as to y^e mechanic part, not ignorant in Mathematics, and pretends to Astrologie. There is an excellent collection of the choicest fruit. As for my Lord, he is a sober, wise, judicious, and pondering person, not illiterate beyond the rate of most noblemen in this age, very well vers'd in English historie and affaires, industrious, frugal, methodical, and every way accomplish'd. His Lady (being sister of the late Earle of Northumberland) is a wise, yet somewhat melancholy woman, setting her heart too much on the little lady her daughter, of whom she is over fond. They have an hopeful son at y^e Academie. My Lord was not long since come from his Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland, where he shew'd his abilities in administration and government, as well as prudence in considerably augmenting his estate without reproch. He had ben Ambass^r Extraordinary in Denmark, and, in a word, such a person as became the sonn of that worthy Hero his father to be, the late Lord Capel, who lost his life for K. Charles I. We spent our time in the mornings in walking or riding, and contriving [alterations], and the afternoones in the Library, so as I pass'd my time for 3 or 4 daies with much satisfaction. He was pleas'd in conversation to impart to me divers particulars of state, relating to the present times. He being no great friend to the D— [Duke of York] was now laid aside, his integrity and abilities being not so suiteable in this conjuncture. 21. I returned to London."

Of the Gardens generally, at this period, we may observe, that they were strictly in the French style, so much admired by Sir William Temple, at Moor Park, in Hertfordshire³⁷; their principal features being regular parterres, with fountains and statues; terraces communicating with each other by flights of steps, summer houses and grottoes, rock work, artificial cascades, &c. Lord Capel, the father of the first Earl of Essex, appears to have cultivated many choice foreign plants with great care at Kew; the brother also of the earl, (Sir Henry Capel, afterwards Lord Capel of Tewkesbury), is repeatedly mentioned by contemporary writers as an industrious and skilful gardener; whilst the partialities and qualifications of the earl himself are sufficiently proved by his works at Cassiobury. The gardens had been previously laid out by the Morrisons, in a style and manner corresponding with the fashion of the age, which is well described by Aubrey³⁸, and noticed by Lord Verulam in the forty-sixth of his "Essays, or Councils, Civil and Moral." The bird's eye view of Cassiobury, engraved by J. Kip, from a drawing by Knyff, displays the house, park, and gardens as they appeared about A. D. 1680.

Moses Cook, gardener to the first Earl of Essex, in the dedication to his lordship of the volume "on the raising of Forest Trees"³⁹, compliments his patron in the following terms, on the improvements which his lordship had effected at Cassiobury:—"To your eternal Praise be it spoken, there is many a fine Tree which you have nursed up from Seeds sown by your own Hands, and many Thousands more which you have

³⁵ Evelyn is the only authority for the name of this architect. In a note to Cressy's translation of Milizia's "*Lives of the Architects*" (vol. ii. p. 165), Cassiobury house is erroneously said to have been the production of Inigo Jones.

³⁶ Cook, the earl's gardener, mentions one which on measuring he found to be eighty-five feet high. *Cook's Forest Trees*, p. 92.

³⁷ See the folio edition of that author's works, vol. i. p. 185. This splendid seat is now the property of the Marquess of Westminster.

³⁸ See MSS. in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, printed in "Letters, &c. from the Bodleian Library," 3 vols. 8vo. 1813.

³⁹ "The Manner of Raising, Ordering, and Improving Forest-Trees: with Directions how to Plant, Make, and Keep Woods, Walks, Avenues, Lawns, Hedges, &c. Also Rules and Tables shewing how the Ingenious Planter may measure Superficial Figures, divide Woods or Land, and measure Timber and other solid Bodies, either by Arithmetick or Geometry: With the Uses of that excellent Line, the *Line of Numbers*, by several new Examples; and many other Rules, useful for most Men. Illustrated with Figures, proper for Avenues, Walks, and Lawns, &c. By Moses Cook, Gardiner to the Earl of Essex at Cassioberry." Third Edition, corrected. 1724. 8vo. Printed for Elizabeth Bell, &c. 1st edit. 1675.

commanded me to raise." "The large Plantation you have made will abundantly testify your Ability and Promptitude in promoting the planting and improving of Forest-Trees." The humble gardener is jocosely allegorical in part of his dedication, by saying "your Excellency knows full well how to prune young trees, yet I hope you will pass by the impertinent and superfluous lines in this *my plantation*; which though I have endeavoured to keep as well *pruned* from errors, and as *clean* from *weeds* as I could, yet 'tis possible there may be some things in it which some may term as ill: But to you all things in it are so well known that I hope both it and I shall find such shelter and support by your favourable *aspect* as that we need not to fear the *storms* of the ignorant or negligent planters."

Again, in 1715, the same gardens are eulogised by Stephen Switzer, in his curious volume entitled "The Nobleman, Gentleman, and Gardener's Recreation; or, an Introduction to Gardening, Planting, Agriculture, and the other Business and Pleasures of a Country Life." (8vo.) He says, "It must not be pass'd by, that *Cashibury* was one of the first places in *England* where the polite Spirit of Gardening shone the Brightest; for altho' there have been great Additions made there within a few Years last past, the main Foundation was laid by that Worthy and Honorable Patriot of his Country, under the more immediate conduct of Mr. Cook, his Gardener, yet living; who has likewise oblig'd the World with a Discourse concerning the raising of Forest Trees, &c. which is still extant. I must confess I never see that truly delightful Place without being more than ordinarily ravish'd with its Natural Beauty." p. 46.

The latter quotation, written after the death of Algernon, the second Earl of Essex, intimates that various alterations had been made in the gardens by that nobleman; and it is believed that some parts of the original mansion, not rebuilt by the first Earl, were restored by his successor: but with the exception of those, and a few other occasional repairs, the house remained as it was left by the first Earl of Essex until the beginning of the nineteenth century, when the present nobleman again rebuilt the greater part from the designs of James Wyatt, Esq.

A brief notice of this building, and its contents, with an account of the park, gardens, and grounds, will be found in the concluding chapter of the present volume.



A. S. 1810.

CHAPTER II.

BRITISH MUSEUM, LONDON.



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In the preceding chapter it has been stated that, after the dissolution of the abbey of St. Alban's, King Henry VIII. granted the manor of Cassio to Richard Morrison, Esq.¹ who was subsequently knighted: and, as it was through that distinguished individual and his successor that the seat attained its future consequence, it is presumed that a Pedigree and a brief memoir of the family cannot be irrelevant, or uninteresting.

PEDIGREE OF THE MORRISONS', LORDS OF THE MANOR OF CASSIO.

Abbreviations—d, for died mar, married—bo, born—bur, buried Wif, Watford dau, daughter

WILLIAM MORRISON, of Clardwell, Yorkshire

WILLIAM MORRISON, of Clardwell = Elizabeth, dau. of Roger Leigh, of Preston, Yorkshire

[illegible]

SEE PUBLIC USE COPY

² For an account of the marriages with the Russell family, see Willen's very handsome and interesting *"Historical Memoirs of the House of Russell,"* 2 vols. royal 8vo. 1833.

¹ The modern orthography of this name, adopted above, differs from that of old. Sir Richard Morrison signed his letters and dispatches "Morysine;" but the word is spelt as above, in MSS. at Cassiobury, dated in 1657, in Clutterbuck's *"History of Hertfordshire,"* and by other modern writers.

According to Jekyll⁴, William Morrison, or Morysine, resided at a place called Chardwell, in the county of York, about the time of Henry VI. His grandson, Thomas Morrison, of the same place, removed into Hertfordshire, and was father of the above mentioned SIR RICHARD MORRISON. Of this eminent scholar and statesman we are unable to state either the exact time or the place of his birth. Wood, in his *Athenæ Oxoniensis*⁵, and Sir Richard Baker, in his *Chronicle*⁶, assert that he was born in Oxfordshire; whilst Fuller⁷, on the authority of Bale⁸, and Lloyd, in his *Northies*, are in favour of Essex. The groundwork of his learning was laid at Eton⁹ and at Oxford; at the latter, according to Wood, he took a degree in arts, and acquired an extensive, if not a critical knowledge of the classic languages. After becoming a member of the inns of court, and studying the common and civil law, he travelled to Padua; and, on returning to England, in 1537, succeeded Reginald (afterwards Cardinal) Pole, in the prebend of Yatminster-Secunda, in Salisbury Cathedral. In his literary works he strenuously advocated the cause of the King through all the political and religious disputes of the period; firmly opposing the supremacy of the Pope, urging the propriety of the King's divorce from Queen Katherine, and embracing every opportunity of administering to his royal master's inordinate love of flattery¹⁰.

In the year 1539, he was appointed ambassador to Charles V. Emperor of Germany; but it is probable that he was in England in 1546, when the grant of Cassiobury was made to him, and that he remained in this country until the accession of Edward VI. In his mission on the continent he appears to have been accompanied by Roger Ascham, and afterwards by Sir Thomas Chamberlayne; and Mr. Lodge, in his "*Illustrations of British History*," has published several of his letters, dated in the spring of 1553, which at once serve to characterise the man, and the politics and literature of the times. They are addressed to the Privy Council, with the exception of one from Sir Richard to the Duke of Northumberland; and from them it appears that his lady accompanied him, and was delivered of a daughter during her stay in the Netherlands. In the third volume of Seward's "*Anecdotes of distinguished Persons*," another dispatch of Sir Richard's is quoted, dated at Spire, in October, 1552, describing one of his interviews with the emperor. The enthusiasm which marked the ambassador's conduct and writings had raised him so high in the estimation of the religious reformers of the age, that, in an early part of Edward's reign, he was appointed one of the royal commissioners to assist in the reformation of the University of Oxford; on which occasion he adopted and advocated the cause of Peter Martyr, in his disputations in the Divinity School¹¹. A short time previous to the king's death, Sir Richard was occupied in building a mansion at Cassiobury, which he had probably commenced immediately on obtaining the grant of that estate; but the accession of Queen Mary, and her cruel and murderous persecutions of the Protestants, compelled him to fly his home and country for safety. He first sought refuge in Italy, but afterwards joined Peter Martyr, Jewell, Poinet, Grindal, Sands, and other distinguished reformers at Strasburgh, where he died in little more than two years and a half from the time of his voluntary banishment¹². He appears to have blended the accomplishments of the courtier and the gentleman with the erudition of the scholar; and was the associate and patron of several of the learned and ingenious men of his time. Leland, in his *Encomia*, gives an elegy on Sir Richard Morrison, which concludes by expatiating on the value in which his learning was held by King Henry VIII. Indeed the dignities and rewards bestowed upon him by that monarch and by his successor, sufficiently prove the esteem with which he was regarded by them both. Besides the manor of Cassio, he acquired much property in London, Wiltshire, Hampshire, and Somersetshire; and, but for the religious dissensions which drove him from his country, and, in all probability, shortened the term of his existence, he might have enjoyed many years of dignified repose in a mansion of his own rearing, on an estate acquired by the abilities which he had exerted for the service of the state. The principal literary work of Sir Richard Morrison is entitled "*Apomaxis calumniarum convitiourumque, quibus Johannes Cochlæus homo Theologus, &c. Henrici VIII. nomen obscurare, rerum gestarum gloriam fedare, nupera edita, non tam ad regem, quam in regis invidiam, epistola studuit.*" Besides this he published "*An Exhortation to stir all Englishmen to the Defence of their Country*," 1539; an "*Invective against the great and detestable Vice, Treason*," 1539; "*Comfortable Consolation for the Birth of Prince Edward, rather than Sorrow for the Death of Queen Jane*;" and several translations from the works of Sturmius, and of Ludovicus Vives. Some of his *Maxims and Sayings*¹³, and *A Treatise of Faith and Justification*¹⁴, with various letters and papers, are preserved in the British Museum. According to Lloyd, in his "*Worthies*," the chief quality for which Sir Richard was remarkable was his foresight, which rendered even his conjectures more valuable than other men's reports of known designs. He was accustomed to say "that his master maintained ambassadors, not so much to write histories as prophecies;" and on one occasion when the English ambassador in France apprised him of a battle fought the previous week, he replied in a long discourse on the Battle of Spurs, fought many years before, and concluded by saying, "I and you are not here to tell old stories."

⁴ MS. Account, *ut supra*.

⁵ Edition 1813, vol. i. col. 239.

⁶ Edition 1674, p. 324.

⁷ *Worthies of England*, edit. by Nichols, 1811, vol. i. p. 347.

⁸ *De Scripturibus Britannicis*, cent. viii. num. 9.

⁹ Lodge's *Illustrations of British History*, edit. 1791, vol. i. p. 156. Fuller (*ut sup.*) names Winchester also.

¹⁰ The following fulsome language is applied by Sir Richard Morrison, in his *Apomaxis*, to the tyrant who then ruled over England:—"Who is so dull as not to see in that most serene countenance the signs of a king? Who can behold, even afar off, that august majesty of his whole person, and not say he was born to a diadem?"

¹¹ Vol. i. p. 147-171.

¹² Amongst other honours conferred upon Sir Richard was the family crest, a Pegasus, rising, *Or*: allusive to his literary attainments.

¹³ Wood, in *Athenæ Oxoniensis*, and others, assert that he left a natural son named Marcellus, and two natural daughters.

¹⁴ *Brit. Mus. Sloane MS. No. 1623.*

¹⁵ *Brit. Mus. Harleian MS. No. 423-4.*

The lady of Sir Richard Morrison was a daughter of Lord Hussey, who was beheaded for his supposed participation in a commotion, caused by one of the oppressive subsidies of Henry VIII. This lady survived her husband more than forty years, and was subsequently twice married. As Countess of Bedford, she officiated as chief mourner on the interment of the unfortunate Mary, Queen of Scots, in Peterborough Cathedral. She was interred in the family vault at Watford; which, together with the monumental chapel above it, had been erected at her own expense about the year 1595. Some of the inscriptions in this chapel present curious and interesting memorials of her piety and family pride¹⁴.

The manor, after the death of Sir Richard, devolved upon his only son, CHARLES, then a minor, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth. It is stated that he completed the mansion which had been commenced by his father, and made it his chief residence; the religious troubles which caused Sir Richard's expatriation having ceased on the death of Queen Mary. He served as sheriff of the county in 1579, and dying, before his mother, was buried at Watford. After his death his relict held local courts there in her own name, at different times from the second to the fourth years of King James I¹⁵. Her son, CHARLES, on coming of age, took possession of, and continued to reside at Cassiobury: he represented the borough of St. Alban's, as well as the town and the county of Hertford, in different parliaments; and acquired sufficient favour at court to be raised to the baronetage, by letters patent, dated June 29, 1611. On the coronation of Charles I. he was installed a knight of the Bath; and, next to Sir Richard, the founder of the family's advancement, he appears to have been the most distinguished of the Morrisons.

This SIR CHARLES MORRISON, BART. (with whom the baronetage commenced and ended) died without male issue; and the direct line of the family terminated in Elizabeth, his only surviving child; by whose marriage with Arthur, Baron Capel of Hadham, the property and possessions of the family of Morrison, including the manor to which this volume is devoted, passed to that of Capel, whose genealogy is displayed in the *pedigree* which occupies the ensuing page.

MEMOIRS OF THE CAPEL FAMILY.

Although the noble family of CAPEL cannot be satisfactorily traced beyond the thirteenth century, yet its comparative want of antiquity is amply compensated by the fame of the illustrious characters who have enriched its annals. The family were originally proprietors of Capel's Manor, near Stoke Neyland, in Suffolk; and Sir Richard de Capel, lord justice of Ireland in 1261¹⁶, is the first named in literary evidence. In the Will of Lionel, Duke of Clarence, son of Edward III¹⁷, (dated in 1368) there is the following bequest: "to John de Capell, my chaplain, a girdle of gold, to make a chalice in memory of my soul." The regular succession of the family is however only ascertained from the time of John Capel, who died in 1449, leaving, by his wife, Joan, a second son named William. Although we have properly but little connexion with the family until they became the lords of Cassiobury, we may be allowed to state that this WILLIAM CAPEL was a draper, and a citizen of London. He was successively alderman, sheriff, representative of the city in parliament, and lord mayor; and had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him by Henry VII.¹⁸ Having once submitted to the extortions of Empson and Dudley, the infamous lawyers of the court, they endeavoured to inflict upon him a second penalty. The payment of this he however resisted, and was consequently imprisoned in the Tower until the king's death; which, fortunately for him, occurred in a few months afterwards. On the demise of Thomas Bradbury, then lord mayor, his fellow citizens elected Sir William Capel to fill that office a second time, for the remainder of the year; and having twice more represented the city, he died in 1515, and was buried in a chapel founded by himself, on the south side of the church of St. Bartholomew, near the Royal Exchange, London¹⁹. It is supposed that his town house was in the neighbourhood of the Royal Exchange; as a court, subsequently built there, was called Capel Court, which name, although it has been occasionally disused, is now retained.

¹⁴ It may be proper to observe that several authorities represent *Fynes Morrison*, the celebrated traveller, as a brother of Sir Richard Morrison. This, however, was not the case, he being of a different family. The traveller had a brother named Sir Richard, who was governor of Dundalk in the year 1660, many years after the death of Sir Richard Morrison, of Cassiobury. For an account of the family in question, see Harleian MS. No. 1559, f. 51. In Jekyll's MS. "*Account of the Early Baronets*," whence most of the accounts of the Morrisons of Cassiobury have been derived, the name of Fynes Morrison seems to have been introduced by Peter Le Neve, who possessed the manuscript for some time, and who in this instance must have been misled by inaccurate information. [For this information the author is indebted to the Rev. Jos. Hunter.]

¹⁵ Chaucy's *Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire*, edit. 1826, ii. 354; Clotterbuck's *History of Hertfordshire*, i. 237.

¹⁶ Cox's *History of Ireland*, p. 69 (cited in Collins's *Peerage*).

¹⁷ Nicolas's *Testamenta Vetusta*, i. 71.

¹⁸ Gough, in his edition of Camden's *Britannia*, vol. ii. p. 84, says, that Sir William Capel "lent Henry VII. great sums of money, and, like the Fuschers of Augsburg, burnt the bonds." Fuller (in his *Worthies of England*, edit. 1811, vol. ii. p. 347) has a similar statement, and adds that "at another time he drank a dissolved pearl (which cost him many hundreds) in an health to the king."

¹⁹ The success of Sir William Capel's exertions for the future prosperity of his family is manifested by his Will, part of which is given in Nicolas's *Test. Vetust.* p. 522. In this eleven manors, in different parts of the kingdom, are enumerated as his property; all of them appearing to have been acquired during his lifetime. In the Will of Dame Margaret Capel, the widow of Sir William, is the singular bequest to her son, Sir Giles, of "King Edward the Fifth's chain," with remainder to Henry and Edward Capel, and to her daughter Elizabeth Paulett, and her heirs Nicolas's *Testamenta Vetusta*, pp. 532, 584.

At 10:45 AM on 5/20/2017, a 34-year-old, black female, was brought to the emergency department by ambulance. She was found by her mother, who reported that she had been drinking alcohol and using marijuana. She was found unconscious on the floor of her room. She was brought to the hospital by ambulance. She was found by her mother, who reported that she had been drinking alcohol and using marijuana. She was found unconscious on the floor of her room. She was brought to the hospital by ambulance.

of Capels Manor, Stoke Newington, descended from Sir Richard de Capel, Lord Justice of Ireland 1171.

SIR WILLIAM CAPT. KNT, Merchant, Lord Mayor of London, &c., &c. Mar 23rd. 1602. Sir I have receiv'd your letter of the 17th Inst. In answer whereunto I have written by the last bearer.

<p>Sir HENRY CARR, Knt., of RABEN, Ant., and of LEAL FERN, and HALL, Ant. His seat at the grandmaster of the Thistles of Scotland, sister of Bédard, IV.</p>	<p>S. ROW, Esq., Knt. of RABEN, Ant. and of Sir William D. BARN, his heir to his mother. Sir J. L. H. and Esq. in the 1st Mar.</p>	<p>Also, the son of Sir B. Ward, of KIRK BARN, Ant.</p>	<p>John, Mar. 1850 Wm. Mar. 1850 Richard, Esq. of HARRINGTON</p>
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Jam. Lord Grey of Pyrges	Mary 1st wife dau. of Anthony Browne	Sir Henry Carey, Knt. - father of Sir Henry Hall of the 1st Baronet	Grace	Elizabeth wife of Sir Robert Hall of the 1st Baronet	Ann 2nd wife of Edward Hall of the 1st Baronet	Mary wife of Sir Anthony Browne of Boxley	Joh. Herbert, 1st Baron of the 1st Baronet
John Thomas Marquis of Arbury	Viscountess Montagu	James 1st son of Henry Carey of the 1st Baronet	William	Elizabeth wife of Sir Robert Hall of the 1st Baronet	Ann 2nd wife of Edward Hall of the 1st Baronet	Mary wife of Sir Anthony Browne of Boxley	Joh. Herbert, 1st Baron of the 1st Baronet

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Am. n. s. c. B. n. s. c. of Houlme, cred. V. n. s. c. of Houlme, cred. V. n. s. c. of Houlme, cred. V. n. s. c. of	Elizabeth, n. s. c. of Elizabeth, n. s. c. of Elizabeth, n. s. c. of Elizabeth, n. s. c. of	St. Helen, n. s. c. of St. Helen, n. s. c. of St. Helen, n. s. c. of St. Helen, n. s. c. of	Catharine, n. s. c. of Catharine, n. s. c. of Catharine, n. s. c. of Catharine, n. s. c. of	Mary, n. s. c. of Mary, n. s. c. of Mary, n. s. c. of Mary, n. s. c. of	Elizabeth, n. s. c. of Elizabeth, n. s. c. of Elizabeth, n. s. c. of Elizabeth, n. s. c. of	Thomas, n. s. c. of Thomas, n. s. c. of Thomas, n. s. c. of Thomas, n. s. c. of	A. n. s. c. of A. n. s. c. of A. n. s. c. of A. n. s. c. of
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<p> Jane (1st w.f.), dau. of Henry Hyde, a Whittier, 1751, 1st of Essex Co., Vermont; 2^d wife, daughter of John of Cheshire, mss. Nov. 27, 1748, 1666, d. Jan. 8, 1753. 1751, in January, 1753 or 1754, had a son, </p>	<p> Samuel Melrose, Esq., a Newbury, 1800, 1801, George Prince, d. 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458,</p>
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Адрес: Д. Вино, бульвар, 12/10	Адрес: Гарбуз, Улицы, бульвар, 12/10	Адрес: А. Герасим, бульвар, 12/10
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SIR GILES CAPEL, the merchant's son, became a courtier and a warrior. Under the patronage of King Henry VIII. he signalized himself in the lists of flaunting chivalry, and in the more serious business of war. For his valour, at the sieges of Teroven and Tournay, he was knighted; and he was present at the celebrated *Battle of Spurs*, and at the Interview between King Henry VIII. and Francis I. of France²⁰. Sir Giles resided at Rayne Hall, in Essex, and served the office of sheriff for that county and for Hertfordshire. He was succeeded by his second son, SIR EDWARD CAPEL, who was in turn followed by his eldest son, SIR HENRY; both of whom resided at Rayne Hall, and were sheriffs of Essex and of Hertfordshire. ARTHUR, the eldest son of Sir Henry Capel, said to have been famous for his great hospitality, resided chiefly at Hadham, in Hertfordshire, and was sheriff of that county in 1592. He was knighted at Theobalds in 1603, and on his death the family property became vested in ARTHUR, his grandson, who was afterwards created BARON CAPEL OF HADHAM.

The life of the last mentioned individual cannot fail to be the most interesting to the general reader, as it is the most important with reference to the present work; for by his marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Charles Morrison, the manor of Cassio, and the mansion of the Morrison family, as already stated, were conveyed to the family of Capel. Lord Clarendon, Dugdale, and Whitelocke, have recorded many interesting particulars of his life, and Bishop Morley has left an account of his death. More recently, Collins, Lodge, Clutterbuck, and other writers have adverted to, and commented on his varied adventures, misfortunes, and character. We must, however, restrict ourselves to the most striking circumstances which chequered the eventful life of this illustrious nobleman.

ARTHUR CAPEL was born about the year 1614, and both his parents dying when he was young, he was entrusted to the guardianship of his grandfather, Sir Arthur Capel. Having evinced a desire to visit foreign countries, his guardian dissuaded him against it, and has left a MS., still preserved at Cassiobury, assigning his reasons and arguments for opposing his wishes²¹. At the time of his father's death, Arthur Capel was a student at Clare Hall, Cambridge, and did not take possession of the family estates until some years afterwards. Being chosen member of parliament for Hertfordshire in 1640, he immediately opposed the extension of the royal prerogative, and when Charles I. dissolved the parliament, he was unanimously re-elected. The course which Capel had commenced he so far followed up as to vote for the attainder of Lord Strafford, the sacrifice of whom would, he hoped, appease the violence of the popular party; but finding their demands increase rather than diminish after the commencement of bloodshed, and that the violent measures afterwards carried into effect were even then contemplated, he, with many other distinguished persons, attached himself to the royal cause, which he ever afterwards continued zealously and loyally to support.

That this proceeding was most gratifying to the king is evinced as well by a passage in one of that monarch's letters to the queen, as in the act by which it was followed. The king's words are, "There is one that doth not yet pretend, that deserves as well as any; I mean Capel: therefore I desire thy assistance to find out something for him before he ask;" and accordingly, on the 6th of August, 1641, he was raised to the peerage, by the title of Baron Capel of Hadham. On taking his seat in the house of peers, and perceiving that the prevailing discontents had penetrated its walls, he proceeded to join the king at York. For a time he commanded a troop, raised at his own expense, and prevented Sir Wm. Brereton, the parliamentary general, from joining the besiegers of Chester; but he was soon called to cooperate with a council who had charge of the prince of Wales, whom he eventually accompanied to Jersey. About this time the king was compelled, by defeat, to seek refuge in Scotland; and, contrary to the advice of Lord Capel, the prince of Wales fled to France. A vote passed the parliament for the sale of the baron's estates, and it was not till he had followed the prince to Paris, and obtained permission to return home, that he compounded with the government for his possessions. Having procured an interview, at Hampton Court, with the now imprisoned king, he raised a body of troops to act against the parliament, in conjunction with others who were to be sent from Scotland. Though this measure failed, Lord Capel remained true and devoted to his monarch. In May, 1648, he advanced into Essex, to form a junction with the troops of Goring, the Earl of Norwich, and Sir Charles Lucas; who jointly undertook the defence of Colchester, which, after a close siege of nearly eleven weeks, surrendered at discretion on the 28th of August. Sir Charles Lucas and Sir George Lisle were sentenced by the republican general, Fairfax, to be shot, but the Earl of Norwich, and Lord Capel were assured that their lives were safe. The latter was however imprisoned at Windsor Castle, and afterwards in the Tower of London, whilst a bill of attainder against him was introduced into the house of commons. From the Tower he contrived to escape, and wading, with great difficulty, across the moat, was joined by certain trusty friends, who secreted him for some days in the Temple; but on removing him across the Thames he was betrayed by the boatman, and conveyed again to prison. On the 10th of February, 1649, the Earl of Norwich, Lord Capel, and some others were brought before what was then termed the High Court of Justice, Lord Capel pleaded the promise made to him by Fairfax, that his life should be spared. The court however decided that such promise referred only to the military power of the general, and that it was no protection in a civil court. He was accordingly sentenced to be hanged, drawn, and quartered; though his doom was afterwards changed to that of decapitation. A petition for his life was presented by his lady to the house of commons, when Cromwell took occasion to praise the character of Lord

²⁰ Two ancient and very interesting pictures (from which plates have been engraved), representing the *Battle of Spurs*, and the *Interview*, are preserved in the Royal Collection at Hampton Court Palace.

²¹ The Manuscript fully evinces the truly national and patriotic feelings of its author. See a copy of part of it in Clutterbuck's *History of Hertfordshire*, vol. i. p. 238.

Capel, but asserted "that as long as he lived, what condition so ever he was in, he would be a thorn in their sides; and therefore, for the good of the commonwealth, he should give his vote against the petition." The sentence was confirmed by a majority of three or four only; and on the 9th of March, 1649, it was carried into effect before the great gate of Westminster Hall, when his lordship addressed the spectators in a speech remarkable for its heroism and piety. His body was buried at Little Hadham, with an inscription stating him to have been "murdered for his loyalty to King Charles I.;" and his heart, according to a wish he had expressed to Bishop Morley, was enclosed in a silver cup and cover, to be eventually buried at the feet of the master whom he had so zealously served. But no funeral rites being performed to the memory of Charles I. the cup was kept in a press at Hadham, where it was discovered in 1703, and its contents placed in the family vault. (See *Archæologia*, vol. xv. p. 300.) For an able and eloquent summary of the character of this patriotic nobleman, the reader is referred to Lord Clarendon's *History of the Rebellion* (edit. 1807, vol. iii. p. 414), where it is stated that Lord Capel "had a very noble fortune of his own by descent, and a fair addition to it by his marriage with an excellent wife, a lady of very worthy extraction, and of great virtue and beauty." His lordship's literary attainments and sentiments are evinced in a volume published after his death, and entitled "Daily Observations; or, Meditations Divine and Moral;" also in a manuscript folio volume in the library at Cassiobury. They consist chiefly of a series of moral axioms, characteristic of their author's sentiments and conduct, and expressed in the quaint language of overcharged devotion. The heroism which he exhibited on the scaffold became almost proverbial; it was commemorated by a popular couplet alluding to his armorial bearings; is fully detailed in a contemporary manuscript by Bishop Morley⁵², who attended him to the last moment, and is noticed, in fact, by all writers of the period. On the death of the "loyal Lord Capel," as he was afterwards called, his estate at Cassiobury and some other lands were sequestered, and granted to the same Sir William Brereton whom he had successfully opposed in Shropshire. How long this officer retained possession of them does not appear⁵³.

Until the restoration of Charles II. Lady Capel and her family resided at Hadham, at which place her ladyship was interred in the year 1660. By letters patent dated April 20, 1661, ARTHUR, the eldest son of Lord Capel, was created VISCOUNT MALDEN and EARL OF ESSEX⁵⁴, and in 1670 he was appointed Ambassador to the court of Denmark, where he displayed great intrepidity in supporting the national character. On his return to England he retired to Cassiobury, an account of his works at which place, with some notices of himself and his establishment, have already been given. At various periods of his life he was lord lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Wiltshire, and of Ireland, and is said to have governed the latter country with great prudence and success. In the loyalty and firmness of his political principles, this nobleman resembled his unfortunate father; and the change in both their political sentiments, which the circumstances of the times produced, served to increase the coincidence. In the month of July, 1683, he was apprehended at Cassiobury, for an alleged participation in "the Ryehouse Plot⁵⁵," and on the 10th of that month he was committed to the Tower of London. Here he was lodged in the house of Major Hawley, to await his trial; but on the morning of the thirteenth of July was found dead, with his throat cut, in a closet adjoining his apartment. An investigation of the circumstances attending his death was undertaken by a committee of the house of lords, but without discovering any certain proof that the earl was murdered. To show that this was the case, however, several pamphlets were printed⁵⁶, and great exertions made. Lawrence Braddon, Gent., of the Middle Temple, states himself to have been "upwards of five years prosecuted, or imprisoned, for endeavouring to discover this murder the third day after the same was committed."

The influence of the family of Capel was increased by the alliance of this nobleman with Elizabeth⁵⁷, daughter of *Algerion*, tenth *Earl of Northumberland*, who was buried with her husband at Watford.

⁵² A copy of this MS., illustrated by seven portraits of distinguished characters of the period, is in the Cassiobury library. One of these is a portrait of Lord Capel, by Vertue.

⁵³ Steinman's "*History of Croydon*," p. 79. 8vo. 1833.

⁵⁴ The EARLDOM OF ESSEX is a title of great antiquity. It was first conferred by King Stephen on Geoffrey de Mandeville, of whose line there were only three Earls of Essex. In 1119, Geoffrey Fitz-Piers, collaterally descended from the last earl of the Mandeville family, was created Earl of Essex by King John, and the title was inherited in succession by his son and his nephew. After the death of the latter, Humphrey de Bohun, his brother in law, lord high constable of England, was created Earl of Essex, by King Henry III. and in the possession successively of five of his descendants the title remained until 1372. In the following year it was assumed by Thomas of Woodstock, youngest son of Edward III. connected by marriage with the family of de Bohun. In 1483 the earldom was bestowed on Henry Bourchier, Earl of Ewe in Normandy; from whom it descended to his grandson, the second and last earl of that family. In 1539 Cromwell, the minister of Henry VIII., was created Earl of Essex, but his honours were forfeited on his execution soon afterwards. The title was revived in the person of Henry VIII., was created Earl of the Bourchier family, but again forfeited on his attainder. In 1571 the earldom was granted to Walter Devereux, and was a third time forfeited on the attainder of his son, the favourite of Queen Elizabeth. It was, however, restored to the son of the latter nobleman, in whose person it became extinct, and so remained from the time of his death in 1646, till the creation of Arthur Capel, in 1661, as above stated. (Nicolas's *Synopsis of the Peerage*.) The first earl of the Capel family was the twenty-first individual who had borne the title. His character is given by Sir Henry Chauncy, in his "*Hist. Ant. of Hertfordshire*," vol. i. p. 312, and an anonymous volume, containing his "Letters whilst he was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in 1675, with his Life," was published in 1770. Lord Russell, his companion in misfortune, has described him "as the worthiest, the justest, the sincerest man, and the most concerned for the public welfare, that existed."

⁵⁵ See an account of the circumstances and character of this presumed plot, written by my friend Mr. Brayley, in vol. vii. p. 222, of "*The Beauties of England and Wales*."

⁵⁶ Among these, the following may be referred to:—"An Inquiry into the Detection of the Barbarous Murder of the Earl of Essex," 1684. "An Account of the most Treacherous and Cruel Murder of Arthur, Earl of Essex," 1689. "Essex's Innocency and Honour Vindicated, or Murder, Perjury, and Oppression charged on the Murderers of that noble Lord and true Patriot," 1690.

⁵⁷ An engraved portrait of the father of this lady, from a picture by Vanduyck, forms one of the illustrations of the present volume: he was lord high admiral of England under Charles I. and afterwards joined the Presbyterian party. He however opposed the execution of the king, and

ALGERNON, SECOND EARL OF ESSEX, fifth son of the last Earl, was lord lieutenant of Hertfordshire, and gentleman of the bedchamber to King William III., whom he accompanied to the Hague in 1691. During the reign of Queen Anne he served in the army in Spain, as lieutenant general of the queen's forces.

WILLIAM, THIRD EARL OF ESSEX, his only son, was a minor at the time of his father's death, and did not take his seat in the house of peers until November, 1718. He was a lord of the bedchamber to George II. both before and after his accession to the throne; ambassador to the King of Sardinia from 1731 to 1736, and in February, 1738, was installed a knight of the garter. On his death the title and estates devolved upon his son,

WILLIAM ANNE HOLLES (the FOURTH EARL OF ESSEX), who was one of the lords of the bedchamber to George II. and George III. and lord lieutenant of Hertfordshire until his resignation. His lordship, as may be seen by the preceding Genealogical Table, was twice married. On his decease, in 1799, he was succeeded by

GEORGE CAPEL CONINGSBY, FIFTH AND PRESENT EARL OF ESSEX. This nobleman was born on the 14th of November, 1757, and in his twenty-second year was "unanimously chosen representative of the city of Westminster in parliament." In 1781 he was elected member for Lostwithiel, in Cornwall, in 1784 for Oakhampton, in Devonshire, and 1794 and 1796 for the town of Radnor, in South Wales. In 1786 his lordship married the widow of Edward Stephenson, Esq. Succeeding to the property of his maternal grandmother, Lord Essex assumed her family name of Coningsby, and was lord lieutenant of the county of Hereford, and also recorder and high steward of Leominster, which offices he resigned after selling his property in that county to Richard Arkwright, Esq. Connected with and attached to the whigs, his lordship has pursued an undeviating system of politics. Warm and generous in his friendships, he has secured the esteem of many persons of the highest distinction in the state. Admiring the Fine Arts, his lordship has richly embellished his house at Cassiobury, as well as his town mansion in Belgrave Square, with numerous choice works of our native painters, many of whom have often experienced a kindly welcome at the delightful seat alluded to. Indeed the number and merits of the pictures there displayed, with its well stored and well classed libraries, are the best evidences that can be adduced of the good taste and good sense of the munificent master of the domain. Nearly forty years have elapsed since the author of this work first met the Earl of Essex, at Hampton Court, in Herefordshire, when the fascinating pencil of Turner was employed in delineating some of the picturesque features of that fine old castellated mansion, with its grand forest accompaniments. The same marvellous artist has since made several exquisite drawings of the house and grounds at Cassiobury, of which Alexander, Hearne, Edridge, and Pugin have also delineated many features: engravings from some of these form part of the present volume. Those artists, with Calcott, Wilkie, Leslie, E. Landseer, Collins, Jones, Bone, Clint, and others, have often sojourned at Cassiobury, alike giving and receiving honours and pleasures by the association. Not confined, however, to one class of men of intellect, this delightful seat has been the resting place and temporary home of men of distinction from foreign climes, as well as others of literary and scientific eminence of our own nation. Thus the Medicis of Italy, with a Sussex of England, the Bolingbrokes, the Bedfords, Lansdownes, Essex's, and Hopes have given brighter emblazonment to their names and houses by patronizing literature, art, and science, than by any of their political or warlike achievements.

ultimately promoted the restoration of Charles II. Throughout the fluctuations of those agitated times, he is said to have preserved his popularity and influence. A pathetic letter of condolence, addressed by Sir William Temple to the above named Countess of Essex, on the death of one of her daughters, is published in that author's *Miscellanies*, vol. i. p. 163.

* Brydges's *Biographical Pezage*.



KING EAST COLE.

CHAPTER III.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF MODERN CASSIOBURY, WITH ACCOUNTS OF THE PARK, THE GARDENS,
THE HOUSE AND ITS PICTURES, THE COTTAGES, LODGES, ETC.



A PERUSAL of the preceding pages, with a due consideration of the circumstances referred to, and connected with them, cannot fail to carry the imagination back to ages that have long passed by—to persons and events that appertain to distant and remote times, and to states of society and civilization strikingly dissimilar to any that exist at the present refined and intellectual epoch. As we can only duly appreciate the visible beauties of nature and art, and the merits of mankind, by their contrasts with deformities and vices, so we are the better enabled to perceive and estimate our present political and civil advantages by an acquaintance with the degraded condition of society under arbitrary and tyrannical governments. It is the duty of the historian to display these things, as well as the prominent and stirring events of foreign and civil warfare, of diplomacy, legislation, and the intrigues of courts and cabinets. Whilst the topographer and the antiquary are properly employed in bringing to light those evidences which Time has enveloped in obscurity, the novelist and the poet employ the same materials to portray the characteristics of man in his domestic and general relations,—in his public and private pursuits,—in his dependence on, and necessary intercourse with his species, and indeed in all the manifold gradations which constitute the lengthened chain of human society. Shakspeare¹, with very slight and crude materials, has shewn how men and women spoke, thought, and acted many centuries ago in Athens, in Rome, and in Britain: so also has the eloquent and learned Bulwer². The truly graphic writings of these highly-gifted authors bring before “the mind’s eye” the general manners and customs—the national and personal peculiarities of the ancient Greeks and Romans—their wars and their feasts—their sports and their quarrels—their “sayings and their doings.” To such minds, and to others of less compass and capability, the preceding pages will furnish glimpses, if not vivid pictures, of the oppressed Britons before the advent of the Christian era;—of Roman warriors, in their rage for conquest and dominion—of Saxon vassalage—of Catholic aggrandizement, with its long reign of degrading supremacy; and also of the moral and political revolutions produced by the suppression of monasteries. A comparison of things as they are with things as they were will serve to heighten and adorn a picture of ever varying society.

Cassiobury, in our times, presents a broad scene of domestic peace and natural beauty. Its parks, woods, lawns, and waters;—its floral and horticultural accompaniments;—its mansion, stored with choice productions of art and literature; and the serenity and general comfort which pervade the whole, cannot fail to produce deep and salutary impressions on the philanthropist and philosopher. Now, its noble occupant has no reason to fear the tyrannic summons of his monarch, commanding him to leave home and family to engage in unjust or frivolous war; nor is he subject to the anathemas or excommunications of an arbitrary priesthood, or the ruinous mulcts of an Empson or a Dudley. On the contrary, he is here surrounded and tempted by every luxury of

¹ In “*Timon of Athens*,” “*Coriolanus*,” “*Julius Caesar*,” and “*Cymbeline*.”

² In “*The last Days of Pompeii*,” “*Rienzi*,” and “*Athens, its Rise and Fall*.”

nature and art—every thing calculated to administer to human pleasure is within his command. He looks abroad and sees a wide expanse of country, his own property—he orders trees to be felled or planted—flowers and fruits to be multiplied or diminished in number—whilst the birds of the air and the beasts of the field contribute to his wants and his pleasures, as reason or fancy may dictate.

Another prominent feature of the present domain, compared with its state in the times of the Saxons and Normans, is the relative condition of its tenants and servants. During the Saxon era the people were often not only slaves to, and at the mercy of their feudal lords, but the degradation was continued in their posterity. They were bought and sold with the land, with the cattle and other property upon it; and by the will of their master were bequeathed as he pleased, together with their wives and children. They were publicly sold in Ireland, and in various parts of the continent; and on one occasion they are spoken of as if actually yoked together for the performance of servile labour:—"Let every man know his teams of men, of horses, and oxen?" This unhappy class of persons appears from the Domesday Survey to have comprised a very large proportion of the whole population of England. Scarcely any tract of land is there mentioned without some of those abject creatures as its appendages. Even long after the Norman conquest, the tenants of land, although they nominally possessed the privilege of changing their master, and were not employed as servants without pecuniary remuneration, were still kept in subjection by the power and influence of the haughty barons whom it was their lot to serve. In the civil wars which for so long a period raged in England, they were compelled to follow their lord to battle, and to assist in the defence of his abode. They were equally subject to the domination of the priesthood; nor until after the dissolution of religious houses, and the abolition of the right of the nobles to keep up the vast number of retainers and vassals to which they had been accustomed, could the labouring class of persons be said to have attained any thing more than the shadow of freedom without its substance. Now it is the boast of England that the laws of the land are framed to protect equally the life and property of the poor and the rich; and were they strictly and impartially administered, this would be the case.

The domain now under consideration comprises the mansion of the lord, with its pleasure gardens, lawns, park, and appendant farms; also commodious and respectable houses for the tenants, and many comfortable dwellings for servants and work-people.

THE PARK.

THE eloquent and erudite Bulwer, in his recent novel of "*Ernest Maltravers*," speaks of *old parks* as "the last proud and melancholy traces of Norman knighthood and old romance left to the laughing landscapes of cultivated England. They always throw something of shadow and solemn gloom upon minds that feel their associations, like that which belongs to some ancient and holy edifice. They are the *cathedral ailes of nature*, with their darkened vistas, and columned trunks, and arches of mighty foliage." The pensive, meditating Jacques might thus moralize over old parks, and their feudal associations; but the lover of nature would rather indulge pleasurable emotions in viewing the "laughing landscapes" of modern England. Diversified and enriched by countless trees of ever varying colour and forms: by herds of deer, flocks of sheep, and herds of cattle: by a broad expanse of lake or running stream, the large park surrounding a noble mansion is calculated to excite any emotion rather than that of gloom or melancholy.

THE PARK embraces an area of six hundred and ninety-three acres, of which three hundred and ten acres are called the home park, being adjacent to the house, and two hundred and fifty-six called the upper park, these being separated from each other by the placid stream of the river Gade, which runs between them from north to south: the remaining one hundred and twenty-seven acres are devoted to the wood walks, lawns, and gardens immediately around the house, with the site on which it stands. Parallel with the river, and in one place forming part of it, is the Grand Junction Canal. The home park presents generally a flat surface, but declines gently towards the river, from which the land ascends westward in varied acclivities, from gradual slopes to steep ascents. A lofty and narrow ridge extends from north to south, beyond which is a dell. Throughout the whole of these parks the woods are abundant, many of the trees, both single, in clumps, and in forest-looking masses, are large, old, and grand. Beech may be said to predominate, but there is an abundance of oak, elm, and fir. Of the firs, there is a plantation, north-east of the house, which may be said to resemble an old Norway forest: the stems of the trees being large and lofty, the branches rugged, and truly picturesque, and singly and collectively presenting much to awaken the admiration of the painter and the botanist. (Two of these trees are shewn in Plate XIX.) As already remarked, page 17, the first Earl of Essex was fond of planting, and Mr. Cook, his gardener, promoted the study by publishing a treatise on the subject in 1675. The artificial clumps, avenues, and other geometrical formations, which still remain, were most probably laid out by that gardener and his lord; and hence we may conclude that many of the now venerable and grand trees, in rows and in groups of five and seven, are of their plantation. Some of them are of immense size, and of imposing aspect. The branches of a single beech tree spread over an area of ground measuring one hundred and thirty feet in diameter. According to a bird's-eye view of the house and adjoining grounds, drawn and engraved by L. Knyff, and J. Kip, and published about 1709, the plantations appear to have

* Turner's "*History of the Anglo Saxons*," citing Wilkin's *Leg. Sax.* p. 47.

been disposed in regular avenues, ovals, and circles, whilst the gardens and lawns had terraces, parterres, steps, "and other rural elegances," as Evelyn remarks. The gardens were then placed on the west and south sides of the house, surrounded by walls, rails, and palisades, and laid out in geometrical walks with flower beds.

THE HOUSE.

OF the House itself, at that period, a better idea is conveyed by the engraved representation in the print referred to, and by the views, and plan in Plate II. of the present volume, than can be expressed by words. This building, as already noticed (page 16), in the language of Evelyn, had recently been erected by Mr. Hugh May, but it is evident, by drawings at Cassiobury, that a part of the north side, called the old north wing⁴, was of a date anterior to the grant to Sir Richard Morrison, and by its bay windows, timber, and plastered walls, and the form of its chimney-shafts, displayed a monastic character, indicating its connexion with and dependance on Saint Alban's Abbey. This part of the building is shewn at the left hand side of Plate II. with gable end, clustered chimneys, and five bay windows. However beautiful the house, and "faire and grand" the rooms might have appeared to Evelyn, they were not calculated to satisfy the taste and wishes of a nobleman at the beginning of the present century; and the Earl of Essex consulted Mr. James Wyatt respecting such alterations as might render the mansion better adapted to the refined habits of the age. That architect was then in fashionable estimation, being employed by King George the Third, at Windsor, by Mr. Beckford, at Fonthill Abbey, and by other distinguished persons. He had acquired much fame from the Pantheon, in Oxford Street, and from some *Gothic* designs which he had lately made; but it is evident from the architectural style and details of all the latter, that he had not carefully studied the varied beauties, the manifold combinations, forms, and expression of the Christian Architecture of Britain. Many of the new parts of Windsor Castle, built by him, were flimsy, weak, and ill suited to assimilate with the old castellated edifice to which they were appended. His additions to St. Stephen's Chapel, and his designs for the House of Lords, were equally defective and inappropriate⁵. Although we cannot compliment the architect for his designs of the exterior, we find much to be pleased with in the arrangement of the interior. As a suite of rooms, adapted for a noble family, and for varied companies, their disposition and sizes are calculated to afford every domestic comfort, combined with luxury; but there are neither finishings, nor fittings-up, to correspond with the exterior character of the building. In the entrance lobby and cloister (the latter represented in Plate XII.) there are coved ceilings, with thin ribs, and "Gothic windows."

The accompanying Engravings will serve to display the arrangement of the suite of rooms on the ground floor, as well as the exterior features of the mansion. By the engraved *ground plan* is indicated the situation and connection, with the names and sizes, of the principal apartments. The whole surrounds an open court-yard, the entrance being to the west, the chief rooms to the south, the private or family rooms to the east, and the kitchen, servants' offices, &c. to the north. A small porch screens the entrance door-way, which opens into a narrow cloister, on the right of which is a small vestibule and inclosed staircase. Eastward of these is the *great cloister*, having five windows, partly filled with stained glass, and its walls adorned with four full-length family portraits, and a head of King Henry IV. The latter is pronounced by Walpole (Works, vol. iii. p. 31,) to be "an undoubted original." An inscription on the frame states, that "the king having laid the first stone of the mansion of Hampton Court, in Herefordshire, left this picture there when he gave the estate to Lenthall, who sold it to Cornwall, of Burford, who again disposed of it to the ancestors of the Lord Coningsby, in the reign of Henry V." As already related, page 24, that estate descended to the present Earl of Essex from his mother, and has been sold by this nobleman to Richard Arkwright, Esq. who has lately made great additions and improvements to the house, from designs by Charles Hanbury Tracy, Esq.

Branching off from the cloister is the *Saloon*, intermediately placed between the dining and drawing rooms. Its ceiling is adorned with the painting which Evelyn mentions as belonging to the hall of the old mansion. He also states it to be the work of Verrio, the subject being composed chiefly of allegorical figures of Painting, Sculpture, Music, and War. In this apartment are two cabinets, containing numerous miniatures, painted by the Countess of Essex. Here are also six portraits, amongst which are those of Sir Arthur Loftus, Lady Mary Sackville, and Elizabeth, Countess of Ranelagh, mother to Lady Coningsby.

The *Dining Room* commands a fine view through the large western window, of the distant park and its long and lofty vista. In this apartment are five full-length portraits and three heads. The former include admirable likenesses of the present Earl of Essex and of his Countess, both painted by J. Hoppner, R. A. Algernon, second Earl of Essex, and Algernon Percy, tenth Earl of Northumberland. The latter is an original by Vandyck, a copy from which was made, in 1826, by T. Phillips, R. A. for the late Duke of Northumberland. On cleaning the picture, for that purpose, it was found that the painter had placed the truncheon, which now points to the ground, "in an entirely different direction. This proof of originality is

⁴ It was popularly called "the house of pleasure" of the Abbot of St. Alban's; and was regarded by the youthful and superstitious as a place haunted by supernatural powers.

⁵ At the time these works were in progress, and when the same architect was likewise employed in altering and injuring the Cathedrals of Salisbury, Lichfield, and Durham, he was admonished and severely criticised by Mr. Carter, in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, by Mr. Hope, in a pamphlet addressed to F. Annesley, Esq. 4to. 1804, and by other critics and antiquaries.

called by the Italians a *Pentimento*." A small engraving from it is given in this volume. The fifth portrait is that of Lady Elizabeth Percy, daughter of the abovenamed nobleman, and wife to Arthur, Lord Capel. Amongst the heads is a fine portrait of Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, maternal grandfather to George, the present Earl of Essex. This room is wainscotted, and some of the picture frames are ornamented with elaborate carving.

The *principal Drawing Room* is a handsome apartment, adorned with cabinets and other rich furniture. On its walls are six fine and very interesting pictures by Turner, Calcott, Collins, and B. Barker. Three of them are landscapes and sea views, by the first eminent painter: viz. a View of the Bridges at Walton-upon-Thames, a Coast Scene, and Shipping at Sea. These pictures were executed more than twenty years back, before this powerful artist had dipt his pencil into, or injured his vision by employing, the brightest yellows, reds, and blues. They are painted with great force, breadth, and truth. Though in different styles of art, and painted from different perceptions of the beauties of nature, the View of Amsterdam, by Calcott, R. A. and of Fishermen on the Sea-shore, by Collins, R. A. are both truly exquisite works of art. A Landscape, by B. Barker, is a pleasing specimen of that artist's peculiar treatment of a close wooded scene.

The *Great Library* is a noble room, and most admirably stored with those treasures of never-dying philosophy and learning which men of talents have, through the medium of the printing press, bequeathed to all the world. However elegant, splendid, and costly may be the dining, drawing, and even state rooms of palaces and mansions; however fascinating to the eye and imagination the picture and statue galleries, with their varied treasures of art, they fail in producing the same strong and permanent effect on the thinking mind, as the well-stored library. The latter offers a never cloying feast to the mental taste; it, indeed, provokes "increase of appetite by what it feeds on." The library of Cassiobury is extensive, and judiciously arranged. It is divided into four classes, and, as intimated by the ground plan, is disposed in as many separate, but adjoining rooms, viz. 1. The classics, history, travels, and philosophy; 2. Topography and archaeology; 3. Poetry and novels; 4. Dramatic and miscellaneous. The ground plan shews the proportions and size of the principal room (fifty-four feet by twenty-three feet), whilst its interior fittings up are displayed in Plate xiii. A series of bookcases extend round the room, over which are fifteen portraits of so many personages of the family. Over the fire-place is a fine specimen of Sir Joshua Reynolds's style of composing and colouring, a group of two figures in a landscape: these are portraits of the present Earl of Essex, aged ten, and his sister, afterwards Lady Monson, aged thirteen. The frame is charged with some of the elaborate carvings by Gibbons, which Evelyn noticed in his visit to Cassiobury. The other portraits in this apartment are those of Sir Henry Capel, second son of Arthur, Lord Capel, created Lord Capel of Tewkesbury; Mary and Elizabeth Capel, daughters of the said Arthur; Lady Jane Hyde, wife to William, third Earl of Essex; Lord Ascot, and his sister, the Countess of Chesterfield; Arthur, first Earl of Essex; the second Earl of Clarendon and his lady, the latter being another daughter of Arthur, Lord Capel; Lady Charlotte Hyde, daughter of Henry, Earl of Clarendon; the second daughter, who married the Duke of Queensberry; Lord Percy, and his sister, Lady Anne, who married the Earl of Chesterfield; Mrs. Strangeways, youngest daughter of Lord Capel; Lady Mary Bentinck, wife to Algernon, second Earl of Essex, and daughter to the Earl of Portland; Lord Beauchamp, first husband to Mary, eldest daughter of Lord Capel; John, Duke of Bedford; and Gertrude, Duchess of Bedford. On the book-cases are several marble busts.

The *Small, or Inner Library* (No. 2 in Plan), appropriated to books on topography and antiquities, is ornamented with portraits and other enrichments, particularly some fine carvings by Gibbons. Over the chimney piece is a family group, by Cornelius Jansen, in a landscape representing the park and gardens of Hadham, as they appeared at the era of the painting, viz. about 1630. Of this picture Walpole (*Anecdotes of Painting*, &c. vol. ii. p. 10, edit. 1826) says, "At Cassiobury is a large piece, curious, but so inferior to Jansen's general manner, that if his name was not on it, I should doubt of its being of his hand." The portraits are those of Arthur, Lord Capel, whose memoir has already been given (p. 22), his lady, and five children, the names of whom are specified in page 21. In Lodge's Portraits is an engraving from the head of Lord Capel, in this picture, which, however, is not very faithfully copied. Portraits of William Anne Holles, fourth Earl of Essex (1760), and of Frances, Countess of Essex (1759), by Sir Joshua Reynolds: both of these pictures are highly interesting specimens of the president's style of painting at that time. Elizabeth, Countess of Essex, second wife to the third Earl—whose portrait is also here,—and another of John, Duke of Bedford, by Hayter.

The *Dramatic Library* (No. 4) is a small cabinet room, adorned with miniatures, small bronzes, ivory, and other carvings, and a collection of plays, &c. Among the bijoux is a miniature of Lord Coningsby, who applied his handkerchief to the wounded shoulder of King William III., at the battle of the Boyne in 1690. The identical handkerchief is here preserved. A small picture of this event, by A. Cooper, R. A. is in another apartment.

Another *Library* (No. 3) contains a collection of novels and numerous other volumes of miscellaneous literature.

The other apartments, to the north of the former, contain a collection of pictures by modern artists, which at once reflect honour on the patron and the painters. These works possess intrinsic merit and value much beyond the fictitious and capricious prices which certain old paintings, and copies of them, have too often obtained in the picture jobbing market. Among this collection the following claim both attention and admiration.

Don Quixotte, the Duchess, and Sancho, by C. R. Leslie, R. A. These familiar Spanish characters have been frequently delineated by different artists, and with varied degrees of success; but perhaps they were never

more successfully portrayed than by Mr. Leslie, in the present composition. He has happily and forcibly contrasted the striking dissimilarities of figure, form, expression, and mentality (if the word be allowed) of the meagre, romantic Don, and the simple-hearted and peace-loving squire; whilst the female is a fine and picturesque foil and opposition to both. The accessories are finely painted, particularly Rozinante and Dapple.

A small landscape, with cattle, by Gainsborough.

A Highland Warrior, returned from battle, by Sir D. Wilkie, R. A. Few artists of any former or of the present age have ever attained a mastery and distinction in their profession at so early an age, or continued to preserve and increase both, for such a long period of time, as the fortunate painter of this picture. His "Blind Fiddler" and "Rent Day" of old, his "Chelsea Pensioners," and many of his representations of Spanish character, scenery, and peculiarities, are replete with the highest attributes of art. An interesting sketch of his early career has this day (Dec. 1, 1837) made its appearance in the "Metropolitan Magazine."

The Cat's Paw, that is, a monkey clasping a cat with one of its fore legs, and with the other forcing the cat's paw into a fire, to take out a roasting chestnut, by Edwin Landseer, R. A. In portraying and painting the form, colour, and expression of animals, no artist ever surpassed the one whose work is here noticed. In saying thus much, the author is not unmindful of Snyders, Rubens, and other distinguished men; but would gladly test the relative merits of the English and the foreign artists, by comparing six pictures selected from each, and wager on the result. Æsop, fabulously, endowed birds and animals with the faculty of speech, but Landseer, following nature, has made them express ideas by look and action. No person can examine the Cat and Monkey in the present picture without sympathizing with both; without feeling the mingled emotions of hilarity and pity. Or who can contemplate the picture of Sir Walter Scott in his Study with his favourite Dogs, without feeling an attachment for the animals, and a respect for the painter who has performed such wonders on canvas.

A Portrait of Sir Joshua Reynolds. This amiable, estimable, and most accomplished artist painted several portraits of himself, including that which is here preserved, and in which he is represented with spectacles. This picture has been sweetly engraved by Caroline Watson, and also by other engravers⁶.

Two small drawings, in water colours, by H. Edridge, copied from Sir Joshua's pictures of Master Bunbury, as Henry VIII. and of Puck. These were bequeathed by the amiable and talented artist to his good friend and patron Lord Essex, in 1821.

A group of figures, representing a musical party, by Hogarth. This picture contains nine portraits, including those of Mr. and Mrs. Millar, Mr. Locke, Mr. Freeke, &c.

A full length portrait of Garrick, as Lord Townley, in the Provoked Husband, by Zoffani.

Full length portraits of Liston and Farren, in the characters of Charles XII. of Sweden, and Adam Brock, by G. Clint, R. A. in which the personal features and dramatic peculiarities of those two eminent comedians are admirably and skilfully portrayed.

Here are also several pictures by Morland, Cooper, Jones, Good, and other eminent British artists. His lordship's town mansion is also highly enriched with works by eminent English painters.

GARDENS.

THE GARDENS at CASSIOBURY, as already noticed, were formerly distinguished amongst the floricultural beauties of England⁷, but whatever may have been their charms at the end of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth centuries, it may be safely asserted, that during the whole of the present century they have far surpassed all their former fame. To the east and south of the house, the ground is laid out in lawns, with numerous choice shrubs and trees, beyond which are various openings to the park, and to the distant country. Some rare and very magnificent flowering trees are attached to the walls of the house, on the east and south sides; whilst a conservatory for select flowers, screens the library and drawing rooms, as indicated on the ground plan. Immediately beyond the lawn, to the east, is a part of the park, abounding with large and grand forest trees, interspersed with furze, thorn, &c. forming a striking contrast to the dressed scene adjoining the house. The *Pleasure Garden* is to the north-east; it occupies an area of nearly eight acres, which are laid out in smooth lawns, devious paths, and umbrageous dells, and abounds with a great variety of valuable plants and flowers. From the commencement of spring, when nature assumes her juvenile and gayest vesture, till the close of autumn, when she declines into the "sere and yellow leaf," almost every variety of floral bloom is successively displayed in these gardens. Green-houses and hot-houses are interspersed amongst the plantations: at one part is a dell, surrounded by ever-green trees, and appropriated to many varieties of rock

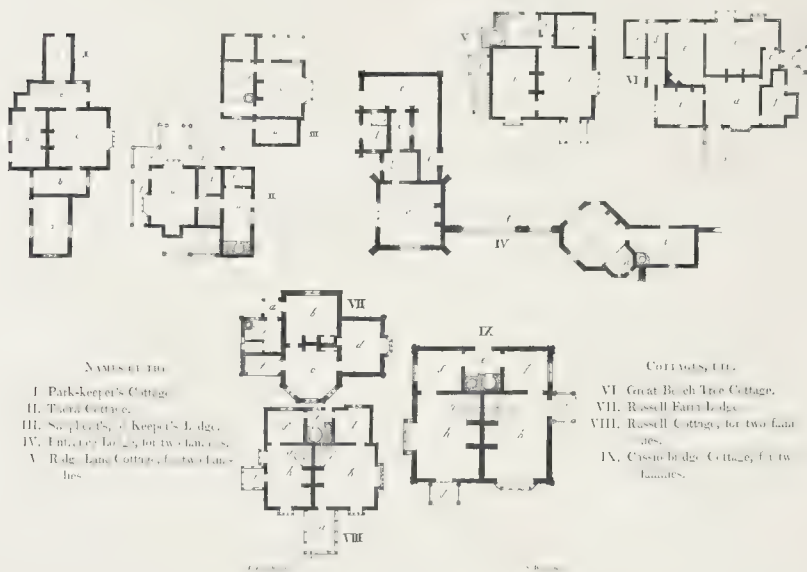
⁶ A series of Engravings by S. W. Reynolds, from the many paintings by Sir Joshua Reynolds, has been published, in 2 vols. folio, and constitutes perhaps the finest collection of prints, from one artist, that has ever appeared.

⁷ The reader is referred to the following literary works for much interesting information on gardens, gardening, floriculture, and horticulture, with critical essays on the picturesque and beautiful:—London's "Encyclopædia of Cottage, Farm, and Villa Architecture and Furniture," 8vo. 1833. The same author's "Encyclopædia of Gardening," 8vo. 1835. His "Suburban Gardener," "Encyclopædia of Arboriculture," 8vo. 1837, and "Gardener's Magazine," published in monthly numbers.—"Price on the Picturesque," "Gilpin's Picturesque Tours," and "Repton's Works." See also "Gleanings on Gardens," by S. Felton, 8vo. 1829, also the same author's interesting pamphlet "On the Portraits of English Authors on Gardening," 8vo. 1828, and "Mason's Essay on Design in Gardening," 8vo. 1796. Walpole, in his "Anecdotes of Painting in England," edit. by Dallaway, vol. iv. p. 273, has an interesting essay on "Modern Gardening." The reader is also referred to a well written pamphlet by Thomas Whateley, entitled "Observations on Modern Gardening," 8vo. 1770.

flowers; whilst in another retired recess is a tract called the Chinese garden, in which are buildings in the Chinese form and character, with various flowers in unison with the scene.

Amongst other objects of interest in these gardens are two large *granite balls*, or *shots*, which were thrown from mortars in the Castle of Abydos, Alexandria, into the Endymion frigate, commanded by the Honourable Captain Bladen Capel, in the year 1807. One of the shots measures twenty-four inches in diameter, and weighs seven hundred pounds. It was propelled nearly a quarter of a mile before it reached the vessel. The smaller shot killed and wounded fifteen men on board. See Plate xx.

GROUND PLANS OF COTTAGES AND LODGES.



REFERENCES.

- I. *a* slaughter house, *b* dairy and larder, *c* sitting room, *d* kitchen, *e* entrance, *f* porch, *g* staircase.
- II. *a* sitting room, *b* bakehouse and scullery, *d* cellar, *e* shed over well, *f* porch and covered way.
- III. *a* sitting room, *b* woodhouse, *c* washhouse and oven, *d* pantry, *e* staircase, *f* porch.
- IV. *a* *g* sitting rooms, *b* staircase, *c* entrance, *d* woodhouse, *e* passage with dwarf wall, *f* gates, *h* staircase, *i* washhouse.
- V. *a* kitchen, *b* sitting room, *c* bed room, *d* washhouse, oven, &c. *e* pantry, *f* staircase, to a floor for another family, *g* porch.
- VI. *a* sitting room, *b* bed room, *c* porch and passage, *d* sitting room, *e* housekeeper's room, *f* pantry, *g* cellar, *h* back entrance, *i* kitchen, *k* porch.
- VII. *a* back porch, *b* kitchen, *c* sitting room, *d* bed room, *e* washhouse, &c. *f* front porch, with seat.
- VIII. IX. *a* *f* porches, *b* *h* sitting rooms, *c* *g* staircases, *d* *f* washhouses, *e* oven, copper, &c.

COTTAGES.

In different parts of the park and grounds are various cottages and lodges, which are distinguished at once for their exterior picturesque features, and for the domestic comfort they afford to their humble occupants. Unlike the ragged, wretched sheds and hovels which are too often seen by the road-side, and even in connexion with some of the large and ancient parks of our island, the buildings here delineated are calculated to shelter, to console, and gratify the labourer after his daily toil, and to make his wife and family cleanly and diligent. Were the mechanics and work-people of large manufacturing towns, and the peasantry (our "country's pride") provided with better and more comfortable habitations than are generally allotted to them, the debasing and ruinous gin-shop and public-house would be less frequented; and ragged, impudent children would not so constantly infest our streets and public roads. The cottages at Cassiobury have been designed with the two-fold object of being both useful and ornamental. They are occupied, exempt from rent and taxes, by men and women who are employed by the noble landlord in various offices about the park, the gardens, and the house: thus the park-keeper, a game-keeper, a shepherd, a lodge-keeper, a gardener, a carpenter, a miller,

a lock-keeper, &c. are accommodated. The *engraved Views*, given in different pages of this volume, represent the general external appearance of these buildings, and the *Ground Plans*, above given, show the arrangements of their interiors. Most of them consist of a porch, a sitting room, one or two bed rooms, and a wash-house, with an oven and a copper. The *Cottage in Ridge Lane* (see p. 24, and No. v. in Plan) consists of two floors, each appropriated to a family. That called *Great Beech Tree Cottage* is of larger extent than the others, and may be considered rather a *Cottage-ornée*, than one for the working peasant. It has five rooms on the ground floor, and others up stairs. (See View in p. 25, and Plan No. vi.) The *Swiss Cottage*, on the bank of the river Gade, is intended for the occupation of a family, and also for the accommodation of parties, during the summer, to take refreshment. The Plan and Views (in Plates xv. and xvi. and in the Preface) serve to illustrate this double building. Since Plate xvii. was engraved, an additional insulated room has been added to the cottage there represented. Most of these buildings are simple in form and economical in construction, being made of brick nogging and timber, with thatched roofs. They were executed by workmen who are regularly employed on the estate, whence the timber was also obtained. The *Cassio-bridge Cottage*, page 17, is the most elaborate in execution; its whole exterior being covered, or cased with pieces of sticks of various sizes split in two. The *Entrance Lodge*, represented in the title page, and Plan No. iv., is partly from Mr. Wyatt's designs, and forms a pleasing feature in a finely wooded road. The Lodge, to the seat called *Russell Farm* has recently been erected on the road side, between Watford and Berkhamstead. The seat is occupied by General Sir Charles Colville, Bart. under the Earl of Essex.

THE FAMILY MONUMENTAL CHAPEL, AT WATFORD.

THE MONUMENTAL CHAPEL, attached to Watford Church⁸, contains several sepulchral memorials to the Morrison and Capel families, from that of Lady Morrison (as already noticed, p. 19), wife of Sir Richard Morrison, who directed the chapel to be built, in 1595. The accompanying print (Plate xxii.) shews the character of the interior of this chapel, with its numerous escutcheons of arms, and its monuments. In the middle of the chapel is an insulated altar tomb, of different coloured marbles, sustaining the recumbent effigy of a female, representing "*Lady Bridget, Countess Dowager of Bedford*," who died January 12, 1600, aged forty-three. She had three husbands, as shewn in the pedigree, p. 18. At the side of the effigy are figures of two boys, kneeling; at the feet are sculptured representations of a stag and an olive tree; and on the sides of the tomb are several shields, charged with the armorial bearings of the lady and her alliances with Hussey, Morrison, Russell, and Manners. A long inscription narrates an account of these connexions, and her manifold virtues and qualifications, amongst which she is said to have been "one of the noblest matrons of England for wisdom and judgment."

Another altar tomb is raised to the memory of "*Lady Dame Elizabeth Russell*," who died June 17, 1611, aged seventy. Her effigy is placed on the top slab, whilst at the sides of the monument are no less than twenty-three shields, with armorial bearings.

On the south side of the chapel is a large and gorgeous monument to commemorate *Sir Charles Morrison*, the elder, whose effigy, in armour, in a reclining posture, is placed under a canopy. There are two other statues on the tomb, in kneeling positions. This work was executed in 1619, by Nicholas Stone, who, according to his own note book, bargained with the younger Sir Charles to make "a tomb of alabaster and touchstone," with "one *pictor* of white marble for his father, and his own, and his sister, the Countess of Sexex (Sussex) as great as the life, of alabaster, for the which I had well payed £.260, and four pieces given me to drink⁹."

On the north side of the chapel, facing the former, is another large monument, of various marbles, designed and executed by the same "*carver and tomb maker*," as he is termed in the contract, as the last; and for which he entered into an agreement¹⁰ with the widow of the deceased, *Sir Charles Morrison, the younger*. For this he was to be paid £.400. This monument, like the former, has a long Latin inscription, and several coats of arms.

Other monuments and memorials commemorate different members of the family who have been here interred. Amongst these is the Honourable *John Forbes*, who was made Admiral of the Fleet in 1747, and died in 1796, aged eighty-two: he married Lady Mary Capel, daughter of William, third Earl of Essex, who was also interred in the family vault beneath the chapel. For accounts of these personages the reader is referred to Clutterbuck's "*History of Hertfordshire*."

A few remarks, in conclusion, it is hoped may not be thought either irrelevant or supererogatory. The many and remarkable changes that have successively occurred in the history of national landed property—in the

⁸ Among the parish churches of Hertfordshire, there are few inferior in architectural features to that at Watford. Many village churches in England, particularly those of Somersetshire and Lincolnshire, are interesting and even magnificent specimens of architectural design. Watford has scarcely one member that pretends to beauty of form or detail.

⁹ From N. Stone's Pocket Book, as given by Walpole, "*Works*," vol. iii. p. 166.

¹⁰ This deed is printed in Clutterbuck's "*Hertfordshire*," i. 262, from the original in the possession of the Earl of Essex.

conditions, habits, and manners of its lords and tenants—in the progress of art and civilization—in the relative states of commerce, manufacture, and intercommunication, are subjects which cannot fail to arrest the attention of the reflecting and enquiring reader of these humble pages. Without again reverting to any but the last-mentioned subject, we are irresistibly led to think of that from a recent circumstance connected with this locality: viz. *the London and Birmingham Railway*. This important novelty in travelling is calculated to puzzle the old, and to astonish the young. Whilst it alarms the former, it awakens the most intense feelings of curiosity and speculation in the latter. As the magnet invariably points to the north-pole, so almost every provincial person of the British empire looks to the metropolis, and hopes to visit it for business or for pleasure: hence it is daily augmenting in the number of its permanent houses and inhabitants. New and improved roads, and canals, and a few railways have been made and maintained from all parts of the island to London, to accommodate and facilitate travelling and travellers. The last is the newest, and, like the two others, has had to encounter the prejudices, the old habits, and the short-sightedness of men. It has been opposed by a phalanx of ignorant and interested persons; so were turnpike roads, as well as canals, when they were respectively introduced; but as both these have outlived their enemies, and the comparative folly of their respective epochs; so will railways as far exceed the other modes of travel and transit, as those have surpassed unmended roads and unnavigable rivers.



CASSIOBURY.

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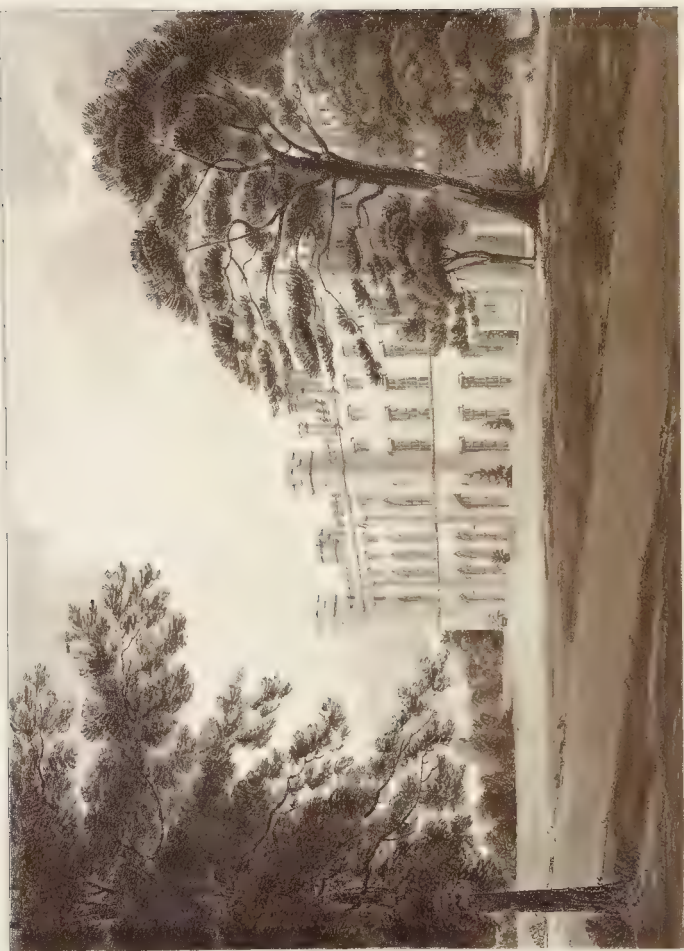












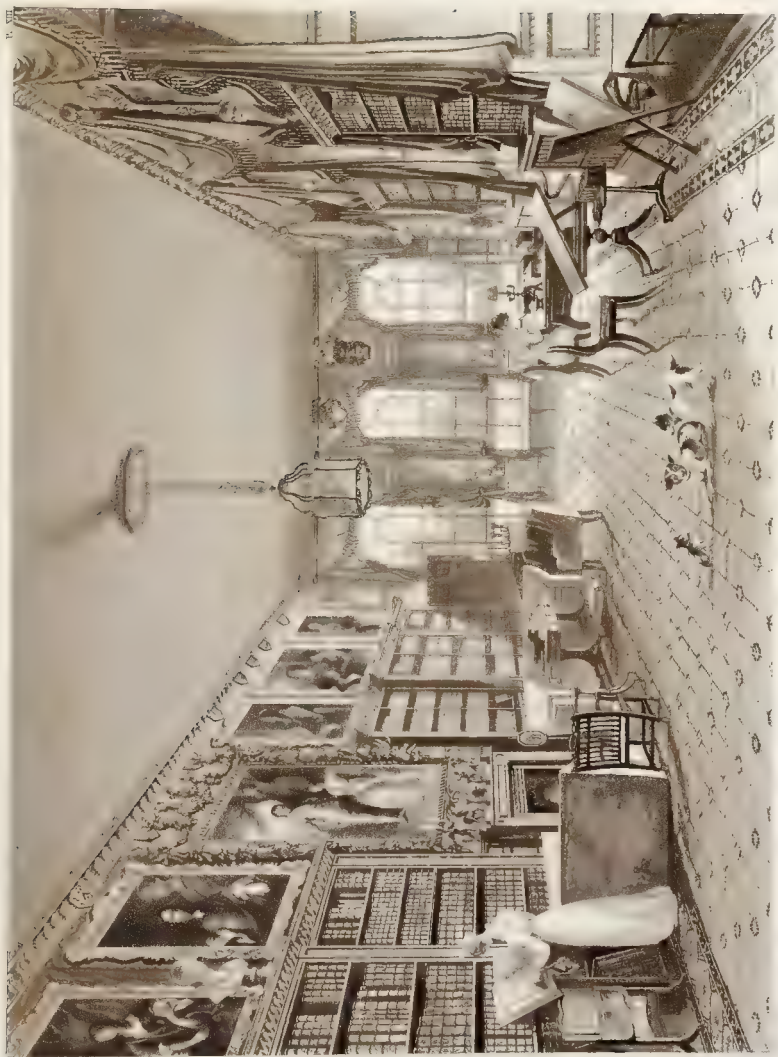






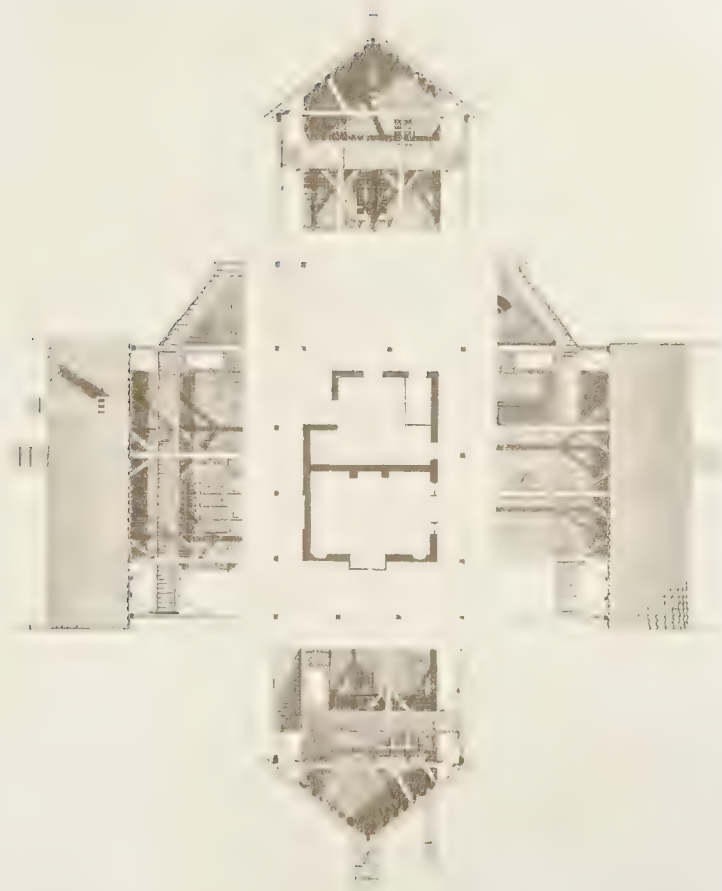
THE GREAT BRIDGE, NEW YORK.











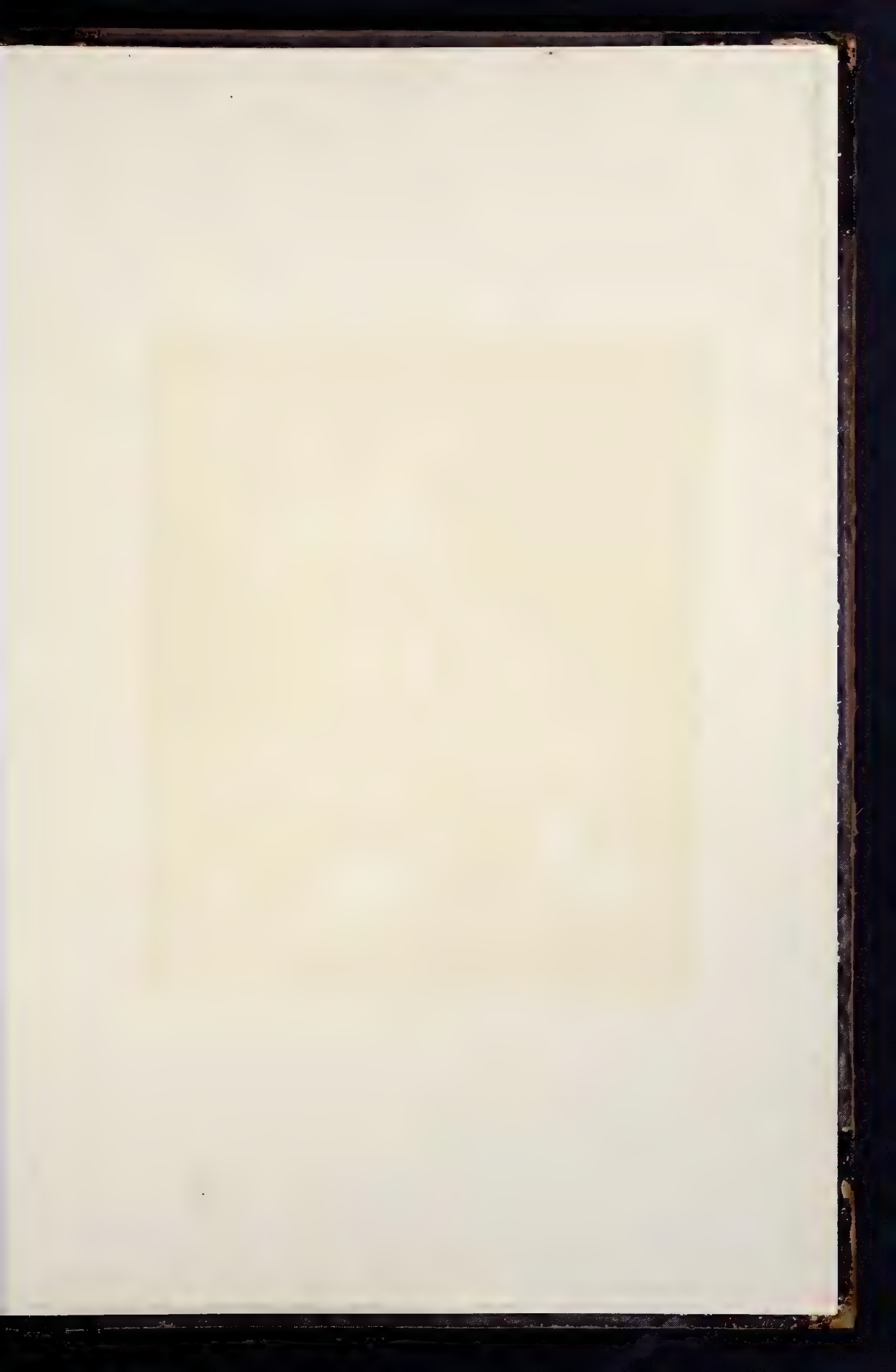
















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